

## **Please Support HB 1732 (Del. Price)**

### *Appropriate Notification for Patients Receiving Life-Changing Tests Results*

#### **What Does HB 1732 Do?**

This bill pauses the immediate release of certain medical test results to a patient's online medical record, and ensures that patients receive these results directly from their physician with appropriate context, proper diagnosis, and treatment plans. Patients need and deserve to receive certain serious and sensitive test results directly from their trained medical team.

#### **Why Is This Bill Necessary?**

The Federal Cures Act requires that all test results be posted directly and immediately to a patient's electronic medical record, often before their physician is notified about a serious and life-changing finding. As a result, patients are receiving alarming diagnoses in an insensitive, unhelpful manner, causing them to endure more anxiety and stress without appropriate support. In some cases this can have catastrophic results. Examples include:

- Patients may receive life-changing information on the weekend via text message or email without the ability to talk to a provider who can provide context.
- Parents may receive extremely sensitive news about a child's genetic marker without the guidance and support of a provider.
- A teenager in remission may learn their cancer has returned without their parents or provider there to manage potential impacts on mental health.
- A patient may receive an inaccurate cancer diagnosis because the provider was not able to interpret the results beforehand.

#### **How Does HB 1732 Fix This?**

- It implements a 72-hour delay only before certain sensitive and life-changing medical results such as cancer and/or genetic markers are shared electronically with a patient.
- The 72-hour hold only applies to pathology & radiology reports that may show findings of cancer and tests that could reveal genetic markers.
- This allows ample time for a provider to review the results in the context of their patient, consult with colleagues, and determine how to communicate these sensitive results appropriately with treatment options.
- Other states, including Kentucky and California have already passed similar laws.