



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

REPRESENTATIVE PAMELA Z. SAWYER
FIFTY-FIFTH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

HOUSE REPUBLICAN DEPUTY LEADER-AT-LARGE

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM 4200
HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591

CAPITOL: (860) 240-8700
FAX: (860) 240-0207

EMAIL: Pamela.Sawyer@housegop.ct.gov

MEMBER

APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
HIGHER EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE
LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

*Testimony by Representative Pam Sawyer
Before the Public Health Committee
On rSenate Bill 1201
March 23, 2011
10:00 Room 1D*

RE: In Support - with recommendations; AN ACT CONCERNING PATIENT ACCESS AND CONTROL OVER MEDICAL TEST RESULTS.

Dear Chairmen Gerratana and Ritter, Ranking Members Perillo and Welch, and distinguished members of the Public Health Committee:

Most people are not aware that when they have major blood work done, they cannot have it forwarded directly from the lab to their other medical providers.

The process that happens now is very inefficient and time delayed. A patient must request the *doctor who ordered the test* to have copies made and forwarded to other medical providers. Conflicting statutes and regulations have caused this dilemma.

Having specialized tests copied at the testing facility and sent on to other physicians or dentists at the patient's request, could have immediate positive health benefits, save valuable time, and money.

Say a woman has major blood work-up ordered by her OB-GYN, the results could be very helpful if her dentist is aware of her current complete blood count (CBC) prior to having major dental work done. Or if the CBC is quickly forwarded on to her primary care physician, her doctor has the immediate benefit of knowing her most current condition for her next visit and can make a determination if it would have a critical impact on her treatment.

Or a cardiac patient who is sent for a specialized blood test may wish to have the work-up sent to his primary care physician, which would aid any other medical decisions by that doctor for ongoing treatment.

This bill needs language clarified so that a *patient will be empowered* to have their personal medical test results forwarded from the lab to his or her other medical providers.

A suggestion to improve bill, is to have the language say:

A provider or, at the request of the patient, the testing facility shall notify a patient of any test results in the provider's possession or requested by the provider for the purposes of diagnosis, treatment or prognosis of such patient. In addition, upon request of the patient, a testing facility shall notify any other provider specified by the patient of any test results requested by the ordering provider for the purposes of diagnosis, treatment or prognosis of such patient.

A patient owns his or her own test results. It is important that everyone has the ability to efficiently move results to other people involved in a person's health care. Thank you for your time and attention to this bill that will work well as part of e-health in Connecticut.