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December 24, 2018

Dr. Rachel Levine
Secretary, Pennsylvania Department of Health
Health and Welfare Building -- 8th Floor West
625 Forster Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120

RE: Patient Test Result Information Act 112 of 2018

Dear Dr. Levine,

Based on our review of Act 112 of 2018, the Patient Test Result Information Act, the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association (POMA) would like to express our opinion of concern. As physicians of Osteopathic Medicine, we agree with and support our colleagues at the PA Medical Society regarding concerns implementing this Act at the current time. We ask further your consideration to permit more time to consider and better define the details of compliance with Act 112.

Although not specifically addressed in Act 112, we would like to bring to your attention an associated issue on this matter. We agree with the intent of Act 112, if a report is serious, immediate notification of patients is warranted, they should be told to contact their physician for an office visit or phone guidance. However, physicians are not always getting the results they need in the appropriate time frame. It is very possible under Act 112 that patients would be notified of results prior to their physicians. If the patient is notified and the physician does not have a result, it will likely cause undue worry to the patient. Therefore, it would be appropriate to ensure a warm handoff to the physician from the facility doing the test when results are serious.

Thank you for your time and consideration of POMA's views as you move to help the stakeholders involved achieve compliance around Act 112. Please contact me if you have questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Joan Grzybowski DO
POMA President