TEXAS MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

Physicians Caring for Texans

House Subcommittee on Chronic Disease Prevention & Women's & Children's Health
House Bill 2298 by Rep. Suleman Lalani, MD
Testimony by Suman Sinha, MD, Submitted on Behalf of the Texas Medical Association
April 3, 2025

Chair Frank, Vice Chair Bucy, and subcommittee members:

The Texas Medical Association, representing more than 59,000 physician and medical student members across the state, appreciates the opportunity to submit comments ***in support*** of House Bill 2298. We support the creation of a grant program to study the use of artificial intelligence technology to scan medical images and reports to detect cancer, and to risk stratify the results. This allows near immediate outreach to the patient.

Cancer is the leading cause of death among people younger than age 85 in the U.S. The American Cancer Society estimates there will be more than 2 million new cancer diagnoses this year, which amounts to about 5,600 new cases every day.[1] An estimated 618,120 people will die from cancer this year; over 45,000 of these deaths will be Texans. Breast, lung and bronchus, prostate, and colorectal cancer are the most common types of cancers in the U.S., representing nearly 50% of new cases and 45% of all cancer deaths.[2] Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death in the U.S. In 2022, Texans made up over 8,200 of the nearly 132,000 lung cancer deaths in the U.S.[3]

Early detection is key to reducing the risk of dying from cancer. For many cancers, the 5-year survival rate is above 90% when diagnosed in early stages.[4,5,6] Using emerging augmented intelligence technology to scan medical images for cancer can increase cancer detection and improve the odds of survival.

This bill creates a grant program that enables recipient hospitals to pay for the licensing of artificial intelligence-enabled technology to review past, current, and future patient scans looking for nodules or tumors that could be cancerous. If something suspicious is identified, the patient would be contacted to arrange additional screening. All images identified as positive for potential cancer will have physician oversight to screen for a false positive before the patient is notified. AI technology continues to improve, allowing for cancer detection in earlier stages which leads to better outcomes for patients and reducing cancer mortality rates.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. TMA supports HB 2298 and appreciates the author's and this committee's efforts to increase cancer survival by using innovative technology to improve cancer detection. For answers to further questions, please contact Matt Dowling, TMA director of Public Affairs, at matt.dowling@texmed.org.

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[1] https://acsjournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.3322/caac.21871
[2] https://seer.cancer.gov/statfacts/html/common.html
[3] https://gis.cdc.gov/Cancer/USCS/?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcancer%2Fdataviz%2Findex.htm#/AtAGlance/
[4] https://www.cancer.org/cancer/types/breast-cancer/understanding-a-breast-cancer-diagnosis/breast-cancer-survival-rates.html
[5] https://www.cancer.org/cancer/types/colon-rectal-cancer/detection-diagnosis-staging/survival-rates.html
[6] https://www.cancer.org/cancer/types/prostate-cancer/detection-diagnosis-staging/survival-rates.html