

My name is Howard Schulman, MD. I have been a general internist/adult primary care physician in Rhode Island since 1995.

I am testifying **against** S 2852 because of **one word** in section (a), “**Shall**”, which I believe should be changed to “**may**”. The way the section reads, to me, is that a provider will be obligated to provide medical records in whatever format or whatever way the patient requests. The problem is that not all electronic medical records may have the ability to do this and send this through email. There may also be other reasons why the provider does not want to send the records by email.

Frankly, the great majority of the time providers probably would like to have the option of sending information by email as requested by patients, and by permitting us to do this with the patients’ consent makes sense for me, though I could easily imagine getting a fraudulent request for records.

Once again, my objection is to **requiring** providers to do this as opposed to **giving them the option**.

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