

February 23, 2017

Senator Laurie Monnes Anderson
Chair, Senate Committee on Health Care
900 Court Street NE, S-211
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Senator Monnes Anderson:

The American Society of Radiologic Technologists, which represents 153,000 members nationally including nearly 1,700 medical imaging and radiation therapy professionals in Oregon, opposes the enactment of Senate Bill 801. As introduced, this bill would allow licensed nurse practitioners, certified registered nurse anesthetists and clinical nurse specialists to provide direction to individuals licensed by the Oregon Board of Medical Imaging in the clinical performance of medical imaging procedures and allow nurse practitioners, CRNAs and CNSs perform medical imaging procedures on Oregon citizens.

ASRT believes that all patients deserve the best care possible and that while nurse practitioners, CRNAs and CNSs have excellent patient care skills and advanced education in nursing practice they do not have the specialized training, skills and experience required to perform safe, high-quality medical imaging procedures. By permitting health care professionals who are not experts in managing radiation dose, patient positioning techniques, equipment protocols and medical imaging physics and who do not have specialized training to provide or provide clinical supervision of imaging services, this bill puts patients at risk for errors, multiple exams and possible radiation overexposure. In order to properly supervise the clinical performance of an imaging procedure, the supervisor needs to be intimately knowledgeable about the procedure, the equipment being utilized and able to step in and perform the examination himself or herself if needed.

After investigating the educational preparation and tests of clinical competency for advanced practice nurses, ASRT was unable to find any specific educational training in the doctor of nursing practice or master's degree nurse practitioner curricula covering radiation physics, radiobiology, radiation safety, radiation management or radiation protection; or documentation requiring verification of successful completion of specific clinical experience in radiologic procedures. It is ASRT's belief that it would not be in the best interest of patient care to allow the performance of medical imaging or supervision of medical imaging procedures by those who have no documented specific education or training in patient imaging procedures involving radiation.

Oregon currently licenses medical imaging technologists through the Oregon Board of Medical Imaging. Licensed medical imaging technologists play a critical role in ensuring that patients undergo safe and high quality imaging and radiation therapy procedures. The training and certification of licensed radiologic technologists is highly specialized and extensive. These

professionals have expertise in anatomic positioning, equipment protocols and optimizing image acquisition to maximize image quality while minimizing radiation exposure to patients.

Only licensed and registered radiologic technologists should perform procedures that use ionizing radiation. Advanced practice registered nurses do not have the education, experience or skills required to perform highly technical diagnostic testing procedures like radiography and fluoroscopy, computed tomography, magnetic resonance imaging or nuclear medicine.

ASRT understands that many health care professions' patient care skill sets sometimes overlap. Many times this overlap is to the patient's advantage. However, in the area of diagnostic medical imaging, there is a formal technical knowledge base that does not exist within the nurse practitioner's, certified registered nurse anesthetist's or clinical nurse specialist's educational preparation or supervised clinical experience. ASRT respectfully opposes S.B. 801 and urges the Senate Committee on Health Care to recommend that this bill does not pass.

Sincerely,

Greg Morrison, M.A., R.T.(R), CNMT, CAE
Associate Executive Director

Cc: Members of the Senate Committee on Health Care
Oregon Society of Radiologic Technologists
American College of Radiology
Oregon Radiological Society