

House Committee on Health Care  
State Capitol Building  
900 Court Street NE, H-493  
Salem, OR 97301

To the Committee on Health Care,

In recent years, physician assistants (PA) in several states have sought the ability to perform fluoroscopy. PA's in Oregon have submitted a proposal to perform fluoroscopy (HB 2880). This should be very concerning to both you and the public. The use of physician extenders in radiology is likely to increase, and knowledge of the educational differences between PAs, and Radiology Assistants (RA) is essential.

PA's have no radiology specific curriculum required during their training. The RA program curriculum is 2 to 2.5 years of advanced training in radiology combined with certification as a Radiologic Technologist (RT) through an ARRT 2 year program. Review of the National education requirements demonstrate that RAs have essential radiology-specific education, lacking only prescriptive authority, disease prevention, and health promotion compared with PAs. Given the depth of radiology-specific training and detailed knowledge from equipment operation and maintenance to radiobiology and radiation physics, we feel that RAs are more qualified for use as physician extenders within radiology. The PA's argue they're exempt from obtaining *additional education* because they are considered *licensed practitioners* just like physicians.

Radiology has been in the public spotlight lately for over-radiation of patients. The FDA, American College of Radiology (ACR), and the American Society of Radiologic Technologist (ASRT) are working together to improve public safety and perception of radiology. The ACR is promoting "Image Gently" geared towards pediatric patients and "Image Wisely" for adult patients.

I urge you to reconsider this legislative proposal. There is an entire field of imaging professionals from technologists to radiologists who urge you to take a closer look at what this proposal means to public safety, and to please research it more. Radiation safety is of high concern to all of us. A radiographer should be in the room to provide safety and monitor radiation use. Radiographers have had thousands of hours of training in the safe operation of radiographic equipment. Radiation safety is the top priority and needs consideration. A quick 40 hour overview class the PA's have been offered for this pathway is not enough. There is no *need* that has to be filled by PA's. There are over 3,000 RT's in Oregon that are certified to do fluoroscopy.

Thank you for your consideration,

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