

Senate Committee on Health Care

State Capital Building

900 Court Street NE, S-413

Salem, OR 97301

To the Committee on Health Care,

I am writing to you about HB2880. This bill is asking for physician assistants (PA) be able to practice fluoroscopy on patients. The physician assistants are declaring this bill an emergency. This is far from an emergency.

The physician assistants have stated that patient care has to wait till a radiologist can be there to perform the exam. I feel that this is not a true statement. There are several thousand radiologist in the state of Oregon that are certified to perform, and are performing every day, these exams.

The education for the physician assistant to do fluoroscopy is minimal. A radiologist has medical school, then 4-5 years of radiology residency, and another 1-2 years of Vascular/Interventional radiology fellowship. The physician assistants' education is 40 hours on line, training from a MD, which is **NOT** a radiologist, and then take a test. Not nearly enough education to perform fluoroscopy safely.

I was asked if there is documentation of patients harmed by a physician assistant performing fluoroscopy. I tried to explain that if any harm was done, it would be difficult to document. Harm from ionizing radiation can take 10-20 years before showing up. The damage from the radiation may not become obvious till in the children the patient gives birth to, years later after the exam. That would be in the form of childhood leukemia. Or, perhaps the vascular patient that received too much radiation near the heart while the PA was trying to place a stent, then 10 years post procedure, the patient starts complaining of problems swallowing their food. A common side effect of radiation near the esophagus is narrowing of the esophagus.

I urge you to reconsider this legislative proposal HB2880. It's an unsafe bill for the citizens of Oregon.

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. Protecting the public is important to all of us in radiology. The patient doesn't know that a PA only has 40 **hours** of training compared to a radiologist with 12 **years** of training.

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 several thousand well trained and certified radiologist in Oregon to safely perform these exams.

Thank you for your consideration,

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