

ear Members of the House Committee on Health Care

I am a certified and licensed radiographer who has worked in the field for over 40 years. It appears that there will be an amendment to this bill that would allow advanced practice registered nurses to supervise or perform medical imaging studies. I am on the Radiation Advisory Committee for the state of Oregon and we recommended that only the CRNA doing pain management be allowed to supervise those fluoroscopy exams. After looking at their education we believe they can do that. Both the Oregon Board of Medical Imaging and Radiation Protection Services worked on rules to allow the CRNA to supervise fluoro for pain management. I ask you to allow that process to work.

Advanced practice registered nurses (APRN) do not have the education, experience or skills required to perform, or supervise the performance of, highly technical medical imaging procedures that use ionizing radiation like x-ray, fluoroscopy or computed tomography. I have worked in urgent care settings with APRNs and found that they often do not have expertise in radiography. Radiographers have many years of classroom education and over 1800 hours clinical time in radiography. Radiologists, the doctors who read and perform fluoroscopy exams, have even more education and clinic time. APRNs do not have the same level of education in radiation that either of these groups possess.

Advanced practice registered nurses are an important part of the patient care team, but do not have the specialized education in radiation safety, radiation protection or image acquisition to supervise or perform these complex and potentially dangerous imaging procedures. I encourage you to not adopt this amendment to SB 1549 to ensure that patients receive the best imaging care possible, performed and supervised by qualified health care professionals specializing in the management of radiation.

Respectfully submitted,

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