

Dear Members of the House Committee on Health Care- I am a student studying how to be a radiologic technologist, in a 2 year program. Myself and several other of my colleagues and peers have been made aware that the Oregon Nurses Association intends to introduce an amendment that would essentially give advanced practice registered nurses as well as certified registered nurse anesthetists the ability to supervise and/or operate fluoroscopy procedures. While I am well aware of my status and place as student, I wish to voice my opposition. This opposition is not entirely out of concern for my own future career but rather a concern of patient and public safety. The program I am currently in spends up to 2 years studying radiation physics as well as techniques on mitigating exposure to this intangible threat. I am currently about a year into this program and realize that I am just now scratching the surface of radiation protection.

After reflecting my own opinions of safety as well as discussing this topic with other healthcare professionals, I found that we all had similar anxieties over the prospect of entrusting our well-being to individuals (although highly trained in their field) who were not vetted like many radiologic technologists have been. There are so much physics and calculations, especially in fluoroscopy, that must be taken into account before the patient is exposed. This is not solely for patient safety, but for everyone in the room with them and even beyond.

I just hope it is understood that completion of this 2 year program is the bare minimum qualifying factor in becoming adequate in protecting the public from radiation. This field stretches out into other degrees and licensure that further educates us in radiation protection.

Respectfully,
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