

To whom it may concern,(all of us Oregon residents actually)

My name is Luke DeMarco and I am strongly opposed to Bill #1549 which allows for advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) and certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNAs) to supervise radiologic technologists in the performance of fluoroscopy procedures or operate fluoroscopy. There are many reasons why this proposal does not make sense. However, my two main concerns are; 1. The lack of radiation protection training and certification that goes along with it. 2. The fact that the ONA is lobbying for this knowing that RN's all over the state are consistently are short handed and over worked when it comes to providing front line patient care.

I am currently enrolled in a Radiologic Technologist program through LBCC. Even in my limited experience so far, I can see the potential harm that can be done with the misuse of ionizing radiation concerning improper patient and healthcare employee safety. We are trained to protect our patients, as well as those around us by using proper positioning, shielding and the lowest dose of radiation possible to get diagnostic images to send to the Radiologists. I have personally seen images first hand, what a lesser trained, limited licensed technologist can produce. We are doing our patients a great disservice by not getting quality images, while putting them and others in a unsafe environment.

Second, it has been well documented that nurses all over the state are short staffed, over worked and take on too many patients at one time. St. Charles Bend, specifically, has had a huge problem with this over the years. Nurses have been asked to take in as many as 10 patients at a time!! This practice in neither safe nor practical. Delivering top notch, patient dedicated health care should be the number one priority in any health care facility. I believe that the nurses that are applying to perform radiologic exams would be better used as they are trained, as front line care givers. I have no issue if they attend a nationally certified and accredited program, as we are doing and others have done. But to simply hand someone the keys to a machine that produces ionizing radiation, something that is federally and internationally regulated, is simply not in the best interest of the patient or other caregivers in their department.

In conclusion, the proposed amendment to Senate Bill 1549 that would allow advanced practice registered nurses to supervise and perform medical imaging procedures. Advanced practice registered nurses are important members of the health care team, but only registered radiologic technologists should perform medical procedures that use ionizing radiation under the supervision of a licensed physician. Radiologic technologists are health care professionals who are specifically educated and certified in providing safe, high quality medical imaging studies and are licensed by the state to provide patient care. Allowing APRNs to supervise or perform ionizing radiation imaging procedures poses a serious health risk to the public since their education does not include specific instruction on radiation protection, radiation safety and performance of imaging procedures.

Thank you for your consideration on this topic.

Sincerely,

Luke DeMarco