

02/16/2021

To: House Committee on Health Care
Representative Rachel Prusak, Chair
Representative Cedric Hayden, Vice-Chair
Representative Andrea Salinas, Vice-Chair
Committee Members

From: Robert Berry CNMT
State Radiation Advisory Committee Member

Subject: HB 2075

Dear Committee Members,

My name is Bob Berry and I work professionally as a Radiation Safety Officer and Nuclear Medicine Regional Coordinator for Providence Health System in Oregon. I currently sit on the Radiation Advisory Committee.

My role at Providence changed around two years ago when I accepted a position as Hospital Radiation Safety Officer. This new role is challenging and I cannot say how much the Radiation Protective Services (RPS) team has helped answer questions. The team has answered numerous phone calls and emails with respect and knowledge on the subjects. In 2020 I was pleased to be added as a member of the Radiation Advisory Committee (RAC). Every meeting that I have attended has been well constructed with pertinent information. The RAC meetings have displayed to me how involved RPS is with radiation safety and helping implement new technologies safely. Most recently the team put together a "Wireless technology health risks report." The team took this report on even with all other job requirements. RPS was instrumental in the wild fire cleanup. RPS set protocols to ensure workers were safe when locating radioactive material in the cleanup.

Medical intuitions understand that fees will happen due to increased costs, maintaining competitive salaries and changes in technology. The RPS budget comes 100% from user fees. It only makes sense that fees will need to increase at some point or the state will need to help fund the program by other means. For a safe radiation environment in the state of Oregon it is crucial that RPS maintains its current staffing needs. RPS staff are a resource for licensees in helping maintain compliance. Medical Imaging and Therapeutic technologies are rapidly growing and they need constant oversight by RPS to help implement this technology safely.

I appreciate your time reading this letter and wish to support HB 2075 so RPS can continue to maintain a safe radiation environment for residents in Oregon

Sincerely,

Robert Berry CNMT
02/16/2021