

March 1, 2024

As an educator and also a licensed Radiographer, working in the profession I am totally against allowing limited licensure. The statement that “limited techs are needed due to a shortage of techs” is extremely short-sighted. I teach Radiation Biology and Protection, and therefore I am up to date on the studies and information regarding the damages to biological tissues when radiation doses are not well managed. That requires much more than 50 hours of training! If we look at the history of when ionizing radiation became a diagnostic imaging tool, and the pioneers who suffered before discovering the affect, there is ample evidence that dispensing ionizing radiation does indeed cause biological damage! It can also cause genetic defects, temporary and permanent sterility and most importantly cancer! The importance of being well educated in this area cannot be overstated. One of the reasons we as technologists are required to obtain 24 CEU’s biannually; and since 2013, the additional more extensive continuing qualification requirements (CQR, see: <https://www.arrt.org/pages/contact/frequent-questions-registered/continuing-qualifications-requirements-registered>), is so that RT’s are continuously educated and up-to-date regarding new technology and methods of reducing patient dose! This on behalf of protecting our patients against unnecessary radiation. Are we doomed to repeat the past ? (<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/24633182/#:~:text=Dial%20painters%20applying%20radium%20to,mura%20IC%20accident%20in%201999.>) Must we cause biological damage and deaths before we once again are made aware of the damages that ionizing radiation can cause? It’s easy to become complacent when you don’t see the immediate results of the damage. But it’s very ignorant and selfish (& most likely greedy) to not look at the supporting evidence.

Besides the dangers of over radiating patients, if this bill is approved, it will affect all the Educational programs in MD and that will have a domino effect in the healthcare field and community economies, job losses, etc. I implore you to do what is morally and ethically the right thing to do. Do not let greed and ignorance of the subject, dictate your decision.

Respectfully,

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