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3/1/2024

Re: Opposition to HB0934 - Radiation Therapy, Radiography, Nuclear Medicine Technology, and Radiology Assistance - Limited Licensed Radiologic Technologist

Dear Delegates on the Health and Government Operations Committee,

I am writing to strongly oppose HB0934, Radiation Therapy, Radiography, Nuclear Medicine Technology, and Radiology Assistance - Limited Licensed Radiologic Technologist.

As a concerned resident in Maryland, I believe this proposed legislation will introduce safety concerns and challenges for both patients and radiologic technologists.

With only acquiring 50 hours of clinical and didactic training, patients will receive inadequate and non-diagnostic imaging. Thus, having the technologist repeat the imaging and increasing the patient's exposure to radiation. In addition to this concern, patient safety is at risk due to only having fifty hours of training, such as patient care and operating X-ray equipment. Licensed technologists must go through courses for radiation protection to understand patient radiation dosage depending upon multiple factors such as age and body habitus. This puts our younger population at risk for higher rates of cancer due to the inadequate schooling and training. Students of the radiography programs undergo 75 hours of radiation protection; whereas, the limited licensed tech is required to only have 15 hours.

With hiring limited technologists at a lower pay rate, outpatient centers, such as orthopedic offices and urgent cares, will be less likely to hire registered and licensed technologists at the average full time hourly rate. This will result in mass layoffs at these companies or pay cuts in current full time licensed techs. HB0934 will limit the jobs available for licensed technologists as well as lower the payscale and degrade this profession.

With the fifty hour training for limited licensed technologists, this can result in multiple schools eradicating the radiography programs. These programs are crucial in this profession by producing well trained technologists. The programs are designed to have at least 1600 hours of clinicals and 54 competencies within two years. Those that are interested in the program will try to take advantage of the 50 hour training rather than extensive learning to become an adequate technologist which will lead to a decrease in students applying to the programs. This legislation will not help the radiologic technologist shortage but will hinder our profession.

Thank you for considering my concerns towards HB0934. I trust that you will uphold the healthcare standards and patient safety. I urge you to reconsider this legislation and withdraw support for this. Do not degrade our profession or put the general population at risk.

Sincerely,
Tina Diehl