

Delegates Thomas Hutchinson, Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk, Bonnie Cullison, Tiffany T. Alston, Heather Bagnall, Harry Bhandari, Brian Chisholm, Pam Lanman Guzzone, Terri L. Hill, Steve Johnson, Anne R. Kaiser, Kenneth Kerr, Nicholas R. Kipke, Robbyn Lewis, Lesley J. Lopez, Ashanti Martinez, Matthew Morgan, Teresa E. Reilly, Samuel I. Rosenberg, Kathy Szeliga, Deni Taveras, Jennifer White Holland, and Jamila J. Woods

House Office Buildings
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

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,

As the spouse of a Stage 4 colon cancer survivor, and as a radiographer who has been practicing for 35 years, I am writing to strongly oppose HB0934, currently under consideration in the Maryland General Assembly.

The proposed legislation presents significant risks and challenges that demand immediate attention.

The introduction of the Limited Licensed Radiologic Technologist profession in Maryland raises serious concerns about public safety and the integrity of our healthcare system.

This bill should not be advanced for the following reasons :

1. Limited training and qualifications: Limited Licensed Technicians would undergo significantly shorter training periods compared to fully Certified Radiographers, raising concerns about their ability to safely administer ionizing radiation to patients. Performing radiographic exams requires knowledge of positioning as well as using complex equipment. Knowledge is key in all aspects of radiology – not just positioning and technique, but critical thinking, organization, and professionalism. Limited training will not prepare technicians to perform adequately.
2. Patient safety concerns: All x-ray machines can deliver harmful amounts of radiation to patients. With limited training the harm to the community is real. Digital equipment does not ensure safer doses - the training of the operator does. Poor image quality will result in a decrease in accuracy of diagnoses and an increase in the number of exams requiring multiple attempts to get quality images - resulting in increased patient dose.
3. Potential long-term impacts: Allowing a Limited License Radiographer will lead to a reduction in the number individuals who will pursue full certification. The number of certified radiographers in a few years will be minimal which will lead to a reduction in the number of qualified personnel for advanced modality imaging (CT scan, MRI scans, etc.). These scans cannot be done by Limited License practitioners, which means decreased access to life-saving imaging.

I respectfully urge you to reconsider the implications of HB0934 and to withdraw support for this legislation.

Thank you for considering my concerns regarding HB0934.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Westman