

March 1, 2024

Dear Delegate Hutchinson,

I am writing you to today to oppose Senate Bill 830/0934. As a certified radiographer since 1980, licensed radiographer since 1996 and radiography educator in the state of Maryland, I find that permitting people with limited training in the field of radiography to perform x-rays poses a safety issue to the public. In the 1990's, the state of Maryland required that all radiographers be licensed to practice to assure that radiographers were competent to perform radiation procedures on patients in our communities. Why are we now lowering the standards when health equity is so important for our diverse communities?

Currently, to obtain a Maryland license, a student must graduate from an accredited radiography program that meets the requirements of the American Registry of Radiology Technology (ARRT) and the American Society of Radiology Technology and successfully pass the National ARRT exam. Only after the student passes the ARRT, exam can the student apply for a Maryland State license, which takes anywhere from 3-6 weeks to receive from the Maryland Board of Physicians, before they can begin working. The majority of students complete their radiography courses by the first or second week of May. Most of the students cannot begin working until July in a healthcare facility, as they wait on their Maryland License to arrive. Would it not be better to bring back the Temporary License by the Maryland Board of Physicians to allow second year students to begin working in the field of radiography? Second year students have more training than what is being proposed today.

In 2015, the ARRT required that students at a minimum, have an Associate's degree to take the National ARRT exam. In the last 10 years, the Maryland Board of Physicians required that all new graduates and currently practicing radiographers be fingerprinted with a background check to ensure each radiographer maintains professional ethical standards without a criminal history. Last year, the Maryland Board of Physicians required that each radiographer, as well as other licensed health professionals, complete a Diversity, Inclusion and Equity course to maintain their license in addition to the required 24 continuing medical education credit requirement required every two years. I would like to

remind the panel that required Continuing Educational Credits and training courses are not free and are at the expense of the radiographer.

I ask you to consider the stringent requirements of a Maryland radiographer before voting to allow people with limited training to perform x-rays on the public. Why do potential patients who visit Urgent Care Centers not receive the same radiographic standards and quality of care of an Emergency Department with fully licensed radiographers? Again, I think bringing back the Maryland Temporary License to allow second year radiology technology students to work in the field would be a quicker and safer solution.

Again, I am not in favor of the bill, but would like to see a better resolution than what is being proposed.

Thank you for your time,

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