



MedStar Health

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**HB 934 - Radiation Therapy, Radiography, Nuclear Medicine Technology, and Radiology
Assistance - Limited Licensed Radiologic Technologist**

Position: *Support*

March 5, 2024

The Honorable Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk
Chair, House Health & Government Operations Committee
241 House Office Building
Annapolis MD 21401

Dear Chair Pena-Melnyk:

I am writing to express my strong support for HB 934, which addresses the role of Limited Licensed Radiologic Technologists (LRTs) in radiation therapy, radiography, nuclear medicine technology, and radiology assistance. As a healthcare provider deeply invested in the efficient delivery of care, particularly in urgent care settings, I believe that this legislation is critical for improving patient outcomes and streamlining healthcare services in Maryland.

Urgent care facilities play a crucial role in relieving the burden on emergency departments (EDs) by managing non-life-threatening conditions promptly and efficiently. At MedStar Urgent Care alone, we serve nearly 600,000 patients annually, with less than 5 percent of these individuals requiring ED-level care based on the severity of their injury or illness. However, approximately 16 percent of our urgent care patients necessitate X-ray imaging, accounting for approximately 100,000 exams per year.

Despite the significant demand for X-ray services in urgent care, staffing challenges often result in up to 10 out of our 33 sites operating without X-ray capabilities on any given day. This deficiency poses a considerable risk, as patients who rely on urgent care for timely X-ray evaluations may be compelled to seek care in overcrowded EDs, exacerbating wait times and placing a strain on hospital resources.

By implementing the Limited Licensed Radiologic Technologist program in urgent care settings, we can address this critical gap in healthcare delivery. Training medical assistants (MAs) to become LRTs enables us to optimize staffing resources, allowing fully trained Radiologic Technologists (RTs) to focus on more complex imaging studies in hospital settings.

Having worked extensively in sports medicine, urgent care, and emergency medicine, I am confident that MAs trained as limited RTs possess the skills and competence to perform the majority of X-ray examinations required in urgent care settings. Moreover, shifting RTs to hospital settings not only improves access to X-ray services but also facilitates future career growth opportunities, including multi-modality training in CT and MRI technologies.

The Honorable Pamela Beidle

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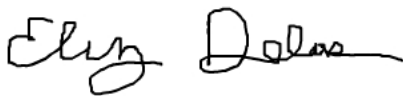
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Furthermore, increasing the availability of RTs in hospital settings can significantly reduce turnaround times for X-ray completion, enhancing ED throughput and patient flow. Currently, the average turnaround time for X-rays in MedStar Maryland EDs stands at approximately 30 minutes. By filling vacant Rad Tech positions in hospitals, we can expedite this process, leading to more efficient care delivery and shorter ED door-to-door times.

In conclusion, HB 934 represents a proactive step toward optimizing healthcare resources and improving patient care outcomes in Maryland. By empowering urgent care facilities with the flexibility to utilize Limited Licensed Radiologic Technologists, we can alleviate strain on EDs, enhance access to X-ray services, and promote career advancement opportunities for healthcare professionals.

Thank you for considering my testimony in **support** of HB 934. I urge you to prioritize the passage of this legislation for the benefit of patients and healthcare providers across the state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elizabeth Delasobera". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Bronson Elizabeth Delasobera, MD
Vice President & Chief Medical Officer
MedStar Ambulatory Services

cc: Members, House Health & Government Operations Committee
Erin Hopwood, staff