



Leading Radiology Forward
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TO: The Honorable Pamela Beidle, Chair
The Honorable Katherine Klausmeier, Vice Chair
Members, Senate Finance Committee

FROM: Steve Forthuber, President Eastern Operations

DATE: February 26, 2024

RE: **OPPOSE:** Senate Bill (SB) 830 -- *Radiation Therapy, Radiography, Nuclear Medicine Technology, and Radiology Assistance - Limited Licensed Radiologic Technologist*

RadNet leads the nation in outpatient diagnostic imaging services with nearly 400 centers in seven states. RadNet has a major presence in Maryland and our Eastern Operations are headquartered in Baltimore. You may know us locally as Advanced Radiology, Community Radiology Associates, and American Radiology Associates with over 60 imaging centers throughout the state. RadNet employs nearly 1,000 Radiologic Technologists (RT) in total across all of our Maryland imaging centers.

SB 830 would create a limited licensed radiologic technologist (LLRT) who would be permitted to perform x-ray examinations of select anatomic area(s) after completing: (1) a total of 50 hours of education and clinical training and (2) successfully passing an examination. If passed, SB 830 would go into effect on October 1, 2024.

RTs are highly trained and skilled professionals who play a critical and an integral role in the patient radiologic care team. In contrast to SB 830, RTs have had to successfully complete an 18 to 25-month accredited Radiology program full-time consisting of: (1) 600 to 700 hours of coursework in patient positioning, radiation safety, technology, medical physics, trauma, medical terminology among many other areas and (2) nearly 2,000 hours of hands-on clinical training under the direction of an experienced RT who was specially credentialed as an instructor. RTs then must: (1) pass a rigorous examination administered by the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT), (2) obtain a license from the Maryland Board of Quality Assurance in Radiology, and (3) complete at least 24 hours of continuing medical education (CME) every 24 months. The RT designation is the start of a successful and meaningful career in radiology.

RadNet, like many other medical imaging providers, is affected negatively by the current serious shortage of RTs in Maryland and across the nation. Yet, we must put good medicine ahead of any short-term financial considerations and addressing this shortage must be in the best interest of Maryland patients. RadNet is concerned that medical quality and patient safety could suffer and that healthcare costs could be driven-up under SB 830.

While we are not supportive of SB 830 in its current form, RadNet appreciates that the bill is trying to solve the current radiologic personnel shortage in Maryland. RadNet stands ready to work with members of the General Assembly, its leadership, and other stakeholders towards a better and more comprehensive solution that puts Maryland patients first. To us, such a solution consists of: (1) creating a limit radiologic technologist license with more rigorous education and clinical training requirements, competency testing, appropriate clinical supervision, and continuous improvement **and** (2) increasing the supply of RTs by making the RT career path more attractive to candidates by expanding access to training and making it more affordable through tuition assistance and employer incentives and by creating a limited "student licensure" which would permit RT students who have completed their first-year to work in a healthcare facility under the direction of a RT, radiologist, or other clinician with radiologic training.

RadNet appreciates the opportunity to provide this statement before Senate Finance Committee.