

February 23, 2024

Madam Chair and Committee,

My name is Jean Johnson and I am the Northeast Regional Radiology Manager for Concentra. I have been a Registered Radiologic Technologist, RT(R) for 14 years. I would like to provide my support for the implementation of limited scope xray technicians in the state of Maryland. Concentra is America's largest and leading occupational health care provider. We also offer urgent care at most locations.

Concentra, along with many other hospitals and facilities, is currently facing a nationwide shortage of Radiologic Technologists. For Concentra, in the state of Maryland, this has resulted in some of our 13 clinics with no xray staff. We have had an ongoing issue with staffing our clinics in the state.

Currently, if there is not a radiologic technologist available in our clinics, patients are often sent to other facilities for x-rays. These can include the ER or outpatient imaging centers. The cost for x-ray services in the ER and outpatient imaging centers are far greater than those the patient would incur in the urgent care setting.

34 states currently have a pathway towards limited scope xray technicians. Limited radiographers are most useful in private practice, urgent care, or occupational medical care. In all these settings, the expanded skillset associated with a Radiologic Technologist is not fully utilized. This is because, typically in our occupational medicine/urgent care model, our xray exams mostly consist of extremity, chest, and spine radiographs and at lower volume than at a hospital. Given underutilization of the skillset, many Radiologic Technologists tend to not stay long term in these types of environments.

Maryland accepting a pathway for individuals to acquire limited scope xray training would be beneficial in so many ways. This could provide medical staff, such as medical assistants, with an introduction to radiologic technology and a way to enhance their professional growth. Ambulatory care settings in the state will benefit from the creation of this opportunity to address the need for limited scope xray technicians to fill the many open positions in our healthcare workforce. I request a favorable report on Senate Bill 830.

Thank you for your consideration,

Jean Johnson, RT(R)

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Regional Radiology Manager- Northeast Region

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