

February 26, 2024

Madam Chair & Members of the Finance Committee,

My name is Sheena Wenz and I am the National Director of Radiology Operations for Concentra and I have been a registered Radiologic Technologist for 15 years. Concentra is the nation's leading provider of occupational medicine. We have 540 medical centers nationwide, 13 located in the great state of Maryland. On average, Concentra performs 62,000 diagnostic x-ray exams per month nationwide.

There is currently a severe shortage of Radiologic Technologists (RTs) across the country, Concentra is not immune to this shortage and has been struggling in Maryland with RT staffing challenges. In addition to this unprecedented shortage, Radiologic Technologists in an occupational health setting perform on average 7-10 x-rays per day, in addition to their other duties as a medical assistant. Given underutilization of the RT skillset, many Radiologic Technologists tend to avoid positions in occupational health settings.

Currently, 34 states, including Virginia and Delaware, allow a pathway for a limited scope x-ray machine operator to perform basic diagnostic x-ray exams. I successfully hire, train, and staff limited scope x-ray technicians in 25 states and haven't had any adverse safety events to date. Concentra currently employs over 380 limited scope x-ray colleagues nationwide, with many enrolled in RT bridge programs in their respective states.

As Radiology professionals we need to expand our minds and think of Limited Scope X-ray as a great addition to our field, not a hinderance. Many professions within the medical field have varying degrees of skill levels with a progression of responsibilities in-line with their respective training.

I believe that this bill desperately needed in Maryland, it has been proven to be successful in other states and is not a new practice. I request a favorable report on Senate Bill 830.

Sheena Wenz, MHA, RT(R)

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