Jodie Kristynik

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Testimony of Jodie Kristynik (self)

IN **OPPOSITION** OF THE SUNSET ADVISORY COMMISSION'S STAFF REPORT- ISSUE 3- RECOMMENDATION TO DISCONTINUE MEDICAL RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGIST LICENSING.

Before the Texas Sunset Commission Public Hearing

To: Sen. Nelson, Rep. Price, Sen. Birdwell, Rep. Burkett, Sen. Hinojosa, Rep. Dutton, Sen. Patrick, Rep. Gonzales, Sen. Schwertner, Rep. Raymond, Dr. Buckingham, Mr. Luce

I have been a registered Radiologic Technologist since 2009 and received my MRI certification in 2011. I am a proud Texan and growing up in the Lonestar state I have learned how much pride and enthusiasm is in the state. Therefore, when I heard of the actions that are attempting to take place, it shocked me considerably. It is disheartening to know that individuals do not think it is important for us, radiologic technologists, to be licensed through the state. Knowing that I practice in a state that requires the radiologic technologist to be state licensed as well, brings great joy to me because I know the state not only cares about radiologic technologists but also about the perceptions and care of each citizen who becomes a patient at a clinic or hospital within Texas. When I take an x-ray or do an MRI for my patient they can rest assure that I am a highly qualified and certified individual who loves her job and caring for her patients. Just knowing that I am certified by the state of Texas gives the patient a confidence that this technologist is educated and will perform her job to the very best of her abilities and get the best images for the doctor.

People, who are uneducated, think that radiologic technologists are just "button pushers" and that statement is completely incorrect. I went to x-ray school to learn the physics of the machine, positioning of patients, safety for the patients and for technologists and several other underlying knowledge that we must know as technologists. I went to MRI school after I finished x-ray school to become that educated technologist, so that my patients could ask me questions

and without hesitation give the correct answer. There are so many small intricate details that only well-educated personnel in radiology know. If you were sick, you would not go to a veterinarian to get a diagnosis just because they are certified and licensed through some sort of medical organization. They like us are held to a higher standard working in the state of Texas. The Medical Radiologic Technologist Program Department of State Health Services which is who radiologic technologists are licensed through for our state has a list of rules and regulations for us to follow and adhere by. If we do not follow these guidelines we are held accountable; thus, putting our licenses at large depending on the severity of the action. There are fines that have to be paid if we do not follow the rules and if bad enough we can go on probation or have our license revoked. This is serious and very important to aid in keeping our patients safe. Rather it is neglect, radiation burns or as terrible as death the technologist needs to be held accountable for their actions and the state needs to enforce the regulations and actions taken. I personally would feel 100 percent more comfortable knowing that the technologist is knowledgeable of all the safety concerns in their modalities. With MRI alone, there are several objects that cannot go into the magnet, which if not properly educated, is a major safety concern for patients. The MRI technologist must know exactly what the patient has implanted inside of them and be able to accurately clear them through the safety screen. There are several times when a nurse or a doctor wants to bring oxygen tanks or scissors into the MRI suite and it takes a well-educated technologist to stop this behavior in order to protect the healthcare professionals and the patient if they are there. Taking an x-ray or doing an MRI or any sort of imaging exam takes a smart, knowledgeable and accountable state licensed individual to get the job completely successful to aid the physician in making the right diagnosis. To continue to be the biggest and shiniest star in the United States, let us keep the Texas Licensure for Radiologic Technologists alive!! I am sure we can all agree that when we go to a healthcare facility we expect to have the most outstanding care and treatment, why would you want to change that for the future generations of this great state? Do not be misled in assuming that anyone can walk into an imaging room and take a substantial diagnostic image and believe that doctors will be pleased to read an inadequate image!

A radiologic technologist (RT), also known as medical radiation technologist or as radiographer, performs imaging of the human body for diagnosis or treating medical problems. Radiologic technologists work in hospitals, clinics, and private practice. A radiologic

technologist uses his/her expertise and knowledge of patient handling, physics, anatomy, physiology, pathology and radiology to assess patients, develop optimal radiologic techniques and evaluate resulting radiographic images.

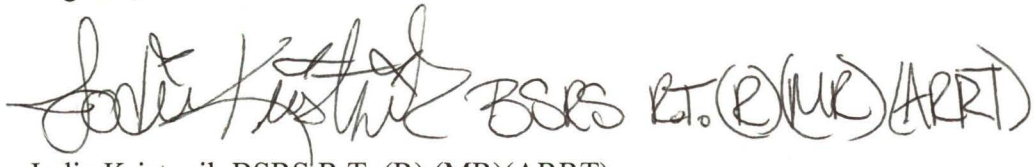
Thirty-nine states currently recognize and have legislation on those delivering a dose of radiation to achieve optimal radiographic images or treat patients. By licensing of RTs in Texas, it ensures that all patients are receiving care in radiology from highly trained individuals that have passed national certifications, met ethical requirements, and have had the necessary training required to deliver a proper dose of radiation, a known carcinogen. As diagnostic imaging increases due to the increasing age of the population, more complex studies are being used to diagnose illness; state licensure of radiologic technologists should remain to protect the health and safety of Texas citizens

Licensure for radiologic technologists preserves the state's right to provide disciplinary action for individuals who may not treat patients according to professional standards or administer radiation correctly. Without licensure, the state cannot protect its citizens from untrained individuals.

Licensed radiologic technologists provide radiologists and other healthcare providers with technically consistent, correctly positioned images, which improve the consistency and accuracy of the providers' diagnosis. Unlicensed personnel have the potential to provide inconsistent or improperly positioned images, reducing the diagnostic effectiveness of exams and increasing the need for repeat imaging procedures. Repeat imaging increases radiation exposure and medical costs.

Licensed radiologic technologists adapt procedures and technical factors to each individual patient's needs. The radiologic technologists' training allows for technologists to evaluate the patient's medical status, patient's history, underlying pathologic processes, and physical factors to create a quality diagnostic image or therapy that is truly individualized for that patient.

Regards,



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