

I would like to thank the Advisory Board for listening today.

My concern is about the matrix used to determine which Acts to Sunset.

Specifically the Medical Radiologic Technology Act. Would it have an effect ^{on} Public Health? Yes and no. It was poorly conceived and at present is barely adequate for the task. It was never properly funded.

Although Rad Techs operate in highly regulated environments. Not all environments are equal. A JACHO inspected hospital and prisons on one end a private DR office and clinics towards the other.

The other regulatory agencies will have no direct means of penalizing bad practice. Nor will they be capable of stopping future misconduct. The little protection the public has will be gone.

Roughly 75% of techs in the state are ARRT certified. They have been trained to standards, examined, and are required to continue learning to maintain their license. When and if the MRT Act goes away roughly 25% of the Techs working in Texas under a limited license or who work under a hardship claim by a physician will no longer have to meet any set standard. So when the 6500 or so of these individual move on the public gets the lottery. The DR were they work trains them to whatever standard they deem appropriate. This becomes scary when you

realize that most physicians learn about imaging by sitting with a radiologist looking at images. They are not trained to take X-Rays. It would be like me (~~but~~ ~~smart example~~) looking at an IV without ever seeing how it got their and then tell^{ARM} ~~ing~~^{ing} someone else how start one based on how the finished product looked.

The last category sighted for the MRT was the most suspicious. The MRT Act because of lack of will or money relies on self- reporting. This reminds me of the saying if all men were angels we would have no need of government. And not surprising is the fact that this would contribute to a low level of activity. X-Ray techs are no more or less ethical than the people they work with. In the future doctors and hospitals are no more likely to report misconduct for fear of opening themselves to legal action. So they fire the person who moves down the road and starts taking x-rays again. Who is to say they can't. Who is going to know they even did.

If I were turning this matrix in as a statistics problem I think I would fail. It appears too much like the qualitative and quantitative elements were set up to give me the results I wanted. But you are not being graded you are held up to a different system. In two or four years you get to tell your constituents that you managed to

decrease the general fund without lowering taxes, and you ensured that prisoners in the state would get a higher standard of health care than does the public.