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Mart, Texas

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on behalf of the

All Radiologic Technologists in the State of Texas

**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

Consider this...would you want your child, parents, grandparents or spouse to have ionizing radiation performed on them by someone who does not know or respect what radiation can do? No licensure means diagnostic, cat scan, and radiation therapy procedures could be performed by ANYONE that a facility decided to hire to perform them. There would be no guarantee that they had any medical background. This move could mean one or more of my friends or family members or one of YOUR children, friends or family members diagnosis and potentially their life could be in the hands of someone who doesn't truly understand what they are doing. They would not be held up to any licensing standards or accountability. This is a ludicrous move. It not only jeopardizes our livelihood, it jeopardizes patients everywhere. One of them could be you!

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,

Dawn E. Vogel R.T.