February 25, 2016

Dear Representative :

As a Registered Radiologist Assistant/ Radiology Practitioner Assistant in City, State, Tell how the lack of legislation has impacted you.

I urge you to cosponsor **H.R. 4614, the Medicare Access to Radiology Care Act of 2016**, bipartisan legislation that addresses the shortage of physicians able to care for our growing Medicare population by increasing the use of qualified non-physician providers like Radiologist Assistants (RA’s).

This common sense legislation will amend the Medicare statute to recognize RA's as a non-physician provider under Medicare. Under the bill, state law would govern scope of practice and physician supervision levels for procedures performed by RAs*.* This would enable Medicare to become more efficient and should ensure that there is no adverse impact on the federal budget.

A Radiologist Assistant is an advanced-level radiographer who assists, but does not replace, the radiologist in the diagnostic imaging environment. RAs must complete a rigorous academic program encompassing a nationally-recognized curriculum and a radiologist-directed clinical preceptorship and must pass a nationally-recognized certification examination. An RA educational program must be an accredited university that awards a baccalaureate degree at a minimum and educate students to perform diagnostic imaging and interventional radiology procedures within the RA’s scope of practice. Today, nine (9) universities offer education and supervised clinical training for the RA, and 29 states license or certify RAs. An RA can either be certified by the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists as a registered radiologist assistant or by the Certification Board for Radiology Practitioner Assistants as a radiology practitioner assistant. RAs always practice under the on-site supervision of a radiologist, thus ensuring the continuation of high quality of care. Their advanced education and training enable them to perform assessments and procedures but exclude them from making interpretations which are traditionally performed by the radiologist.

Unfortunately, the Medicare program does not currently recognize the RA profession and imposes the same physician supervision requirements on RAs that it applies to technologists who have not satisfied the same rigorous education and training standards. This promotes inefficiencies in health care delivery and jeopardizes access to care for beneficiaries -particularly in rural areas - and ignores potential cost savings.

This legislation is supported by over 56 national, state, and local organizations including the Society of Radiology Physician Extenders (SRPE), American College of Radiology (ACR), American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT), and the American Society of Radiology Technologists (ASRT). If you would like more information about the bill or would like to cosponsor, please contact Michael Richards in Rep. Olson’s office at 5-1280 or Lindsay Manson in Rep. Reichert’s office at 5-7761 or Hannah Melvin in Rep. Doyle’s office at 5-2135 or Alyssa Penna in Rep. Pascrell’s office at 5-5751

Thank you for your support.

Name and credentials

Address

Phone

email