Dear Congressman/Congresswoman [XXX],

I write to you to urge you to support and co-sponsor H.R. 1970, the Medicare Access to Radiology Care Act, introduced by Reps. Mike Doyle (D-PA) and Pete Olson (R-TX). This bipartisan legislation would help maintain access to radiology services for our growing Medicare population and support high value, team-based radiologic care.

Radiologist assistants (RAs) are recognized by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) as providers who can serve Medicare patients under direct supervision. However, radiologists are unable to submit claims to Medicare for non-diagnostic services performed by RAs they directly supervise in both the hospital and office setting, as well as diagnostic services in hospitals.

As a [feel free to customize details about your own position and experience in the field, where you practice, and why this legislation is important to you as a practitioner].

The legislation is supported by the radiology stakeholder community including, the American College of Radiology (ACR), the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT), the American Society of Radiologic Technologists (ASRT), and the Society of Radiology Physician Extenders (SRPE), as well as 114 other national, state, and local organizations.

This bill allows RAs to be fully utilized in radiology practices to provide high quality, efficient, and cost-effective care to patients. RAs must complete a rigorous academic program encompassing a nationally-recognized curriculum, a radiologist-directed clinical preceptorship, and a mandatory nationally recognized certification examination.

RAs make radiology practices and departments more efficient, often spend more time with the patient than radiologists are able to, help reduce wait times for procedures and consultations, and are specially trained in radiation safety and image quality that affects diagnostic value. This unique and essential training ensures the best possible image at the lowest possible radiation dose.

To co-sponsor or for more information, please contact Kate Werley (Kate.Werley@mail.house.gov) in Rep. Doyle’s office or Kevin Hartley (Kevin.Hartley@mail.house.gov) in Rep. Olson’s office.

Sincerely,