

Dear Members of the House Committee on Health Care – I am a Radiologic Technologist student and I strongly oppose the amendment proposed to SB 1549 to allow advanced practice registered nurses to supervise or perform medical imaging studies. Here are some reasons why:

Advanced practice registered nurses do not have the education, experience or skills required to perform, or supervise the performance of, highly technical medical imaging procedures that use ionizing radiation like x-ray, fluoroscopy or computed tomography. As radiologic technologist students we go through a thorough education to understand everything regarding radiation. We DO NOT just “push a button.” There is a lot of science and physics behind taking x-rays and it’s important than anyone who is “radiating” real living people has the same education, background, and knowledge.

Making the decision of having nurses perform or supervise your images would put you and the public at risk! With radiation comes the scare of cancer. Each time someone is getting radiation for images there is a potential for cancerous cells to develop and have affects later in your life. We strive as radiologic technologists and radiologic technologist students to know everything we possibly can about radiation protection. We make sure our patients get the least amount of radiation as possible with every image that we take because we have the education and knowledge to do so. We know the risks, and harm that radiation can cause if not used appropriately.

I strongly believe ONLY certified and licensed radiologic technologists should perform medical procedures that use ionizing radiation under the supervision of a licensed physician. I would also like to add that I did not write this trying to offend or belittle nurses in any way. I do care a lot about nurses and everything that they do but , I also know the potential dangers of radiation and the damage that can be done if not used properly and without a background education. Nurses are just as equally as important as Rad Techs in the medical field, but both require appropriate education before handling patients. I encourage you to not adopt this amendment to SB 1549 to ensure that patients receive the best imaging care possible, performed and supervised by qualified health care professionals specializing in the management of radiation.

Respectfully,  
KaLeah Parmenter, (Student of the DI program at LBCC)  
93182 Prairie Road  
Junction City, OR 97448  
541-335-9806