

Dear Public Health Committee Members,

I'm a certified nuclear medicine technologist and an educator in the accredited nuclear medicine technology program. As a health care professional, the patient safety and diagnostic quality of nuclear imaging procedures are of the most importance to me.

Under current Connecticut law, basic training standards for nuclear medicine technologists are voluntary allowing individuals to administer radioactivity to patients and perform nuclear imaging procedures without any formal education or proper certification. Poor quality nuclear medicine procedures performed by an incompetent individual can lead to misdiagnosis, duplication of services, delayed treatment, and anxiety in patients, not to mention misadministration of radiopharmaceuticals.

This bill would impose minimum standards for training and education for nuclear medicine imaging professionals to ensure that the medical procedures and radionuclide therapies are performed safely and more accurately in patients. Nuclear medicine programs accredited by the Joint Review Committee on Educational Programs in Nuclear Medicine Technology (JRCNMT) and the national exam boards in nuclear medicine (NMTCB and ARRT) set the technical and didactic requirements for the nuclear medicine technologists in many licensed states, including our neighboring states of NY, NJ and Massachusetts. Connecticut is one of very few states that have not established licensure requirements for nuclear medicine technologists.

As an educator and a resident of Connecticut, I strongly support the licensure of nuclear medicine technologists in our state and hope that the nuclear medicine procedures and radionuclide therapy procedures will be performed by properly trained and qualified health care professionals.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to express my views and concerns regarding this matter and for considering my testimony in support of Proposed Bill HR-5639: Licensing of Nuclear Medicine Technologists.

Sincerely,
Beata Gebuza