



Advancing Molecular Imaging and Therapy

October, 28th 2009

The Honorable Senator Jonathan A. Harris, Chair
The Honorable Representative Elizabeth B. Ritter Chair
Joint Committee on Public Health
Room 3000, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Senator Harris, Representative Ritter and Members of the Public Health Committee:

This letter is in reference to possible legislation that would regulate and license health care practitioners in Nuclear Medicine Technology. The Society of Nuclear Medicine (SNM) is pleased to learn of efforts to have Connecticut join 27 other states that offer patients the safety of knowing that their Nuclear Medicine Technologist (NMT) has completed a rigorous process of training and certification and is licensed by the state.

The Society of Nuclear Medicine-Technologist Section (SNMITS) is part of the Society of Nuclear Medicine (SNM) an international scientific and professional organization founded in 1954 to promote the science, technology and practical application of nuclear medicine. Its 16,000 members are physicians, technologists and scientists specializing in the research and practice of nuclear medicine. In addition to publishing journals, newsletters and books, the Society also sponsors international meetings and workshops designed to increase the competencies of nuclear medicine practitioners and to promote new advances in the science of nuclear medicine.

The Society of Nuclear Medicine (SNM) is pleased to learn of Connecticut's efforts moving toward possible legislation which would require those who perform nuclear medicine technology to be licensed and regulated. By reforming current processes, Connecticut would join 27 other states in the country who already license their nuclear medicine technologists.

The constituents of Connecticut deserve quality health care. By establishing mandatory education and credentialing for nuclear medicine technologists, the public would be assured of technologist competence to perform diagnostic imaging and therapeutics. The American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) and the Nuclear Medicine Technology Certification Board (NMTCB), who register and certify nuclear medicine technologists, hold the technologists to strict standards of ethics.

There currently is a bill working its way through Congress that would address this issue: The Consistency, Accuracy, Responsibility, and Excellence (CARE) in Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy Act of 2009 (H.R. 3652), was recently referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means. This Act would require those who perform medical imaging and radiation therapy procedures to meet minimum federal education and credentialing standards in order to participate in federal health programs

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administered by the Department of Health and Human Services, including Medicare and Medicaid.

This important legislation will ensure quality in medical imaging and radiation therapy procedures; reduce healthcare costs by lowering the number of repeated procedures due to poor technique or improper positioning, and; improve the safety of patients undergoing medical imaging and radiation therapy procedures. *

The SNMITS fully supports the nuclear medicine technologists of the State of Connecticut in their efforts to be licensed. We ask that you honor their request and we urge you to include them in your state's radiologic technologist's license.

Sincerely,



Cybil J. Nielsen, MBA, CNMT
SNMITS President



Danny Basso, CNMT, FSNMITS
SNMITS Advocacy Committee, Chair