Dear Committee Members,

I am writing in reference to today's proposed bill # 5639, "An Act Concerning the Licensure of Nuclear Medicine Technologists.
I submit this testimony as Vice President of the Connecticut Society of Radiologic Technologists, Director of the Diagnostic Imaging Program at Quinnipiac University and a licensed and certified Radiologic Technologists.

I, and the CSRT fully support this act. Any imaging professional that is responsible for administering radiopharmaceuticals and performing Nuclear Medicine procedures must be held to the highest standards available to ensure the safety of Connecticut's patients and the highest quality in the delivery of patient care.

However, this licensure should be predicated and administered to only those professionals that are nationally certified by either the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) or the Nuclear Medicine Technology Certification Board (NMTCB). These agencies ensure that nuclear medicine technologists have met rigorous academic and clinical objectives related to radiobiology and radiation safety to patients, themselves and other personnel.

A major procedure involving nuclear medicine technologists is the advent and proliferation of Positron Emission Tomography with Computed Tomography. This is more commonly known as PET/CT.

Currently under Connecticut state law, only ARRT certified and licensed Radiologic Technologists may perform the CT component of this procedure. The American Registry of Radiologic Technologists has provided a certification pathway to enable nuclear medicine technologists to obtain eligibility for the CT examination.

By including language in this bill that any nuclear medicine technologist performing PET/CT procedures, in addition to being ARRT or NMTCB certified, must also be CT certified by the ARRT, will ensure that patients are delivered the lowest achievable radiation dose, the most optimal procedure and diagnosis and highest quality of care.

Finally, Radiologic Technologists are required to perform 24 continuing education credits every 2 years to maintain their certification and state license. We have all heard and read about the nationally recognized concerns regarding radiation exposures to the population primarily from CT procedures, and the rapidly changing and expanding technology, these licensed practitioners should also be required to demonstrate a minimum of 24 continuing education credits every 2-3 years specific to Computed Tomography.

Thank you for your kind attentions and considerations in this matter.

William F. Hennessy, MHS, RT(R)(M)(QM), CAAD(C)
Clinical Associate Professor
Director, Diagnostic Imaging
Quinnipiac University