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May 9th, 2024  
Hon. Lynda Schlegel Culver  
Senate Box 203027  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3027  
Room: 460 Main Capitol

Dear Senator Schlegel Culver,

On behalf the Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions (SCAI) and its 355 members that live in the State of Pennsylvania we would like to register our concern regarding Senator Lynda Culver's proposed legislation relating to the licensure of Medical Imaging Professionals.

SB \_\_\_ creates a State Board of Medicine license for all medical imaging and radiation therapy professionals to ensure that those who operate imaging and radiation equipment are properly trained.

While this bill is certainly well-intentioned and appropriate for some subspecialists, it would negatively impact cardiovascular (CV) technologists as well as catheterization (cath), electrophysiology (EP) laboratory technicians and the comprehensive cardiovascular team.

Currently the American College of Cardiology recognizes CV technologists through credentialing that includes:

- Completing one of the programs of study administered by Cardiac Credentialing International (CCI);
- Earning the Registered Cardiovascular Invasive Specialist (RCIS) or Registered Cardiovascular Electrophysiology Specialist (RCES) certificates; and
- Completing a course of study and/or examination that properly assesses proficiency in the areas necessary to assist in catheterization or electrophysiology procedure.

The RCIS and RCES credentials provide a strong indication that the individual has undergone extensive training specifically tailored towards providing the best cardiac care for patients. The current credentialing process is effective. **We are not aware of any circumstances in Pennsylvania where a CV technician mishandled imaging or radiation equipment or caused patient harm. We believe it's unnecessary and burdensome to create another licensing process for CV, cath and EP laboratory professionals and request a full exemption.**

Creating State licensure and regulation of CV technologists will likely cause unnecessary delays in employment, increase employee costs with license application fees and create more administrative burdens.

Due to the exceptional training requirements that are already in place cardiologists have a much higher level of confidence and trust with CV technologists than their colleagues in the radiology field. Currently all radiology technicians are supervised by cardiologists in the operating room to minimize mistakes and radiation exposure. In a few cases they are credited with saving lives while in the operating room.

The **single most important reason** we are in opposition to this bill is because of the profound impact it will have on the healthcare workforce. Many facilities are struggling to fill critical CV technologist positions and there are not enough training programs in the state to support the ongoing shortage. As a way to fill these vacancies, many facilities are hiring traveling staff, and have to pay them more than they would if they were permanent residents of the state. This would contribute even more to the rising costs of the healthcare system in our state.

**For all the points outline above, we strongly urge the committee to consider exemptions from licensure for our CV technologists and defer to the existing CCI credentialing system. We don't believe exemptions for CV technologists would have any adverse impact on other professionals in the radiology field who want licensure.**

Thank you for your concern on this issue. We welcome additional discussion on the bill.

Sincerely,

Arnold Seto, MD, FSCAI  
Chair, SCAI Advocacy Committee



Mark Hoyer, MD, FSCAI  
Co-Chair, SCAI Advocacy Committee

