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Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging

Testimony to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives Committee on Professional
Licensure

February 27, 2018

Chairman Mustio, Representative Readshaw, members of the Committee on Professional Licensure, on behalf of the Technologists Section of the Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging (SNMMI) and the 389 Pennsylvania members, which is a part of the Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging that is the scientific and professional organization that promotes the science, technology and practical application of nuclear medicine and molecular imaging with the ultimate goal of improving human health, I would like to thank the committee for the opportunity to testify on the importance and need for passage of Pennsylvania House Bill 1545, the Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy Health and Safety Act.

My name is Cheryl Rickley and am a licensed nuclear medicine technologist since 1989. I am the Chief Nuclear Medicine Technologist at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. I am currently licensed in New York, New Jersey, and California. I am also the Secretary of the Greater New York Chapter of Nuclear Medicine –Technologist Section of the Society for Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging.

PA House Bill 1545, mandates medical imaging and radiation therapy licensure and establishes a Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy Board of Examiners which would license and establish qualifications for individuals in Pennsylvania who perform nuclear medicine imaging or radiation therapy procedures on humans for diagnostic or therapeutic purposes.

Currently in Pennsylvania a uniform standard does not exist to assure patients that individuals operating medical imaging or radiation therapy equipment and performing medical imaging or radiation therapy procedures have the appropriate education, training, and certification to protect them from the harmful effects of excessive and improperly performed medical imaging or radiation therapy procedures.

To ensure the safety of patients, all nuclear medicine technologists should be certified by the Nuclear Medicine Technology Certification Board or the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists. Both bodies certify that nuclear medicine technologists are qualified to perform general nuclear medicine procedures, nuclear medicine therapy, nuclear cardiology procedures, positron emission tomography (PET) procedures, and CT attenuation correction and localization at entry level.

Most neighboring states require the licensure of Nuclear Medicine Technologists practicing in their jurisdictions. This bill provides much needed safe guards for Pennsylvania patients.

Thank you for providing the opportunity to testify on behalf of the 389 Pennsylvania SNMMI Technologist members before you today on the importance of PA HB 1545, the Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy Health and Safety Act and encourage the committee to pass this legislation. If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.