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**Subject:** HB#2698 written testimony

To the Health and Human Services Committee

I would like the following to be read as written testimony during the house hearing for HB#2698.

I am a nationally registered Radiologic Technologist educated and employed in Kansas. The bill under consideration would bring Kansas into line with three-fifths of other states by requiring Radiology Technologists in this state to have attended an accredited college and pass the national registry for Radiology Technologists. Time after time this issue has come before the house. Each time a sad lack of support has continued to endanger the health of 2.5 million Kansans.

Radiology Technologists use radiation to produce images utilized by physicians to diagnose a wide range of medical conditions. As everyone knows, radiation is dangerous. In fact the American College of Radiologists (physicians who deal specifically with imaging medicine) has stated that any amount of radiation exposure is considered significant and harmful regardless of how small. This is because each time an x-ray photon enters a patient's body it causes damage. For this reason registered Radiology Technologists have a practice called ALARA (Uh-lar-uh). This stands for As Low As Reasonably Achievable. Meaning that when a registered technologist takes an x-ray he or she is always mindful of the radiation dose to the patient and strives to keep it as low as possible. We do this by being fully educated in our area of expertise. We are much more than button pushers. Sadly, it is this perception of button pushing that is dangerous to the public.

The danger is further compounded by the greed of some hospitals and physicians. You may have been told that there is a shortage of technologists in Kansas. This may have been true in the past but it is no longer the case. Many students graduating this spring will take the expertise gained in Kansas schools to other states in search of jobs.

Under current laws a hospital or physician may hire someone off the street with no x-ray or even health care experience. These unregistered technicians with almost no knowledge of anatomy or radiation physics will not only produce poor quality images, it will take them numerous attempts. Thus not only is the patient's radiation dose doubled or tripled, but the image is so bad that a doctor could miss an illness or pathology. You may wonder why anyone allow this to happen. Well Joe Blow off the street can be paid one half to one third what an educated Registered Technologist would make. As you know, in this life you get what you pay for. In radiology it comes at a cost to the patients.

HB#2698 will not eradicate unregistered technicians. They will be grandfathered in. Rural hospitals and physicians are in no danger of being put out of business. But it is a start for the future. You must ask yourself who you would rather have use radiation on your child, grandchild or loved one, Joe Blow or a graduate of an accredited college who has passed a national registry.

I work for a hospital that meets a higher standard and only employs Registered Technologists. My job is not in danger. I have taken so much of your time because I know that this bill is for the benefit of our patients. Remember everyone is a patient at some time. I care and I hope that you will also. Thank you so much for your time and attention.

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