

Subject: Bill 2698
February 16, 2004

Dear Representative Morrison,

Please accept this as a written testimonial in the event that I am unable to appear on Monday the 16th of February.

I am a Registered Radiological Technologist, Graduating in 1984. I have worked in the city and in the rural areas. I understand the difficulty of obtaining technologists in those rural areas and in retaining them. However, I also know that in these rural areas is where the most unjust is being done to the citizens of Kansas.

I wonder if when you shop for health care if you choose the facility that is the BEST. I wonder if when you or your family have an X-Ray or a CAT scan if you ever question in your mind, if the person behind the control panel has any training in administering RADIATION TO HUMANS.

I do not understand how the STATE Social and Rehabilitation office can send out a letter dated 1-22,2004 requesting that each facility document rather or not all of their employees are "currently licensed/or certified in the State of Kansas. The State of Kansas Social and Rehabilitation services is asking me to certify that I have Licensed people who are performing their ancillary testing??? What a contradiction. I am NOT required to have a license in the State of Kansas, yet for STATE work I must prove that I am qualified.

I am required to be a Registered Technologist to do a Mammogram by the STATE and the FDA. Why is that so? Mis-Diagnosis due to POOR quality films. Poor quality is only important in Mammography NOT in X-Ray and C.T???? In one area your cancer will be diagnosed with quality (mammography) but in a much more vast area many will be missed due to poor quality work.

Today you are a legislative representative -when you leave here you "could" be an X-Ray tech -there is nothing to stop you. We will hand you a few techniques and show you where to push the buttons. We might even give you a book to position people with -after all x-raying the correct anatomical region is important.

How would you do if I place an infant child in front of you and ask you to produce an X-ray image?? How would you do if that infant child was your son or daughter?? Not being TRAINED you might push buttons until you achieved the picture you need without every knowing that you could have just given that child radiation induced Leukemia. Of course you wouldn't know and who would care? Years later when that child is a teenager diagnosed with Leukemia it will be tragic.

I personally have witnessed people with NO TRAINING taking x-rays in remote areas of Kansas and Oklahoma. I have seen films repeatedly exposed to try an obtain images.

I have quizzed the staff on how they achieve an image without knowing? They told me they just push buttons until they get it right. If you think you are safe you may not be, I know multiple places in Kansas where people are working today with limited training.

I understand that Physician offices do not want to pay high dollar for X-Ray Technologist's; I understand that Hospitals cannot afford higher dollars either. However this should NOT be about the money this should be about the SAFE USE OF RADIATION ON HUMANS. This should be about Quality Radiographs for accurate diagnosis. This should be about SAVING LIVES.

Today as a representative of the people it is your duty to protect them from the harmful affects of radiation in un trained hands.

Thank You,

Veronica Messer R.T. (R) (M)

Radiology Director