



January 13, 2020

The Honorable Dave Burke  
1 Capitol Square  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Chairman Burke:

I am writing on behalf of OhioHealth in support of S.B. 236, sponsored by Senator Stephen Huffman.

S.B. 236 would do the following:

- Require that rules regarding Ohio's Radiation Control Program be adopted by considering the Suggested State Regulations for Control of Radiation and various federal regulations, rather than by using standards that are no less stringent than those sources;
- Specify that one of the activities radiographers and nuclear medicine technologists are licensed to perform is to document orders for contrast and radio-pharmaceuticals in patient medical records; and
- Require a radiographer and a nuclear medicine technologist to practice in a manner that is consistent with a definitive set of treatment guidelines approved by the clinical leadership of the institution where the radiographer or technologist practices.

S.B. 236 makes the above-cited minor but much needed changes to Ohio law and would bring our state in alignment with best standards in industry practice and clinical safety protocols, which are detailed below.

### **Industry standard practice**

Across the radiological industry, it is a standard of practice for clinicians to order an imaging modality and expect that the radiology or cardiology departments provide appropriate orders and processes for the specific study.

Our current Chief Medical Information Officer has in a prior role implemented electronic order entry of radiology studies across 15 other states. The vendors Epic and Cerner include protocol-based ordering as the standard of practice in all other states. *Only the state of Ohio has created a process that does not allow radiology technologists to follow pre-approved protocols.*

### **Clinical safety protocols**

Radiology protocols for contrast, hydration, and management are complex and best understood by radiology clinicians and radiology technologists.



Most studies can be created as a standard checklist with clear guidance and dosing adjustment parameters. These checklists are called order sets and protocols and are established by the radiology clinical leadership. By having checklists and protocols, radiology procedures are safe and reliable. Protocols are written so that they do not require decision making beyond the scope of practice of the technician selecting the protocol.

The greater point is that standard protocols assure that evidence-based, safe, and required processes are followed.

I appreciate Sen. Huffman's leadership on and your consideration of S.B. 236. On behalf of OhioHealth, **I ask that you and your colleagues on the Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid Committee support the passage of S.B. 236.**

Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jeffrey R. Kasler".

Jeff Kasler  
Director of Government Relations