



To: Members of the Senate Finance Committee

From: The Ohio Society of Radiologic Technologists' Board of Directors

Date: June 8, 2023

Re: H.B. 33 GXMO Supervision Issue

Chairman Dolan, Vice-Chair Cirino, Ranking Member Sykes and members of the Senate Finance Committee, I am Dr. Julie Gill, Junior Chair of The Ohio Society of Radiologic Technologists' Board of Directors. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 33. The Ohio Society of Radiologic Technologists (OSRT) is a non-profit professional organization representing Ohio medical imaging and radiologic science personnel. Our mission is to advocate for radiologic technologists by advancing professional practice to enhance patient care.

The OSRT has not taken a position on HB 33 as a whole but we do oppose an amendment that was added this past Tuesday to the bill which would weaken supervision requirements for General X-ray Machine Operators (GXMO). Currently, direct supervision by a Licensed Practitioner is required for GXMOs, and this amendment would allow for general supervision.

The OSRT believes that this weakening in supervision requirements for the GXMO would be detrimental to the standard of care for patients undergoing x-ray examinations for the following reasons:

1. GXMOs have limited education and training in diagnostic imaging and clinical practices which includes patient care, radiation protection, radiation biology, and radiologic procedure patient positioning. There is currently no minimum hourly requirement for didactic or clinical education for the GXMO and many GXMOs complete their didactic education in one weekend and their clinical education in one afternoon. Conversely, radiologic technologists must complete a minimum of an associate degree program of at least 65 semester credit hours with most students completing a minimum of 1,000 clinical practicum hours.
2. Currently, there are over 14,100 nationally certified and state licensed radiologic technologists and fewer than 700 state licensed GXMOs practicing in Ohio. Thus, this is NOT a workforce issue, but rather a patient care and safety issue.
3. A change in the supervision of the licensed GXMO without the ability to testify or debate this issue would negatively impact the quality of patient care and degrade the profession of medical imaging.

The OSRT believes that an issue of this magnitude should be fully vetted in a stand-alone bill that progresses through the routine legislative process, not as an amendment within the extremely large budget bill, as this is NOT a budget issue. The quality of patient care is important enough to let all stakeholders and constituents be heard.

To be clear, Ohio has been a leader in radiation safety issues, and this proposed change does not align with our state's strong history of providing quality patient care. Thus, we urge you to delete this provision from HB 33 and continue to protect Ohio's citizens from inferior healthcare! Thank you again and I would be happy to answer any questions the committee may have at this time.

