

October 9, 2013

Economic Affairs Interim Committee
Montana State Legislature

Dear Committee Members:

The Montana Society of Radiologic Technologists (MSRT) is the professional society for radiologic technologists in Montana. As the President of the MSRT and on behalf of the MSRT board, I would like to address the review of the Board of Radiologic Technologists (BORT) that is being performed by your committee, which is called for by House Bill No. 525 introduced by McNiven, Cook, O'Hara, Evans, Lavin, Ehli, O'Neil, and Welborn.

The MSRT supports retention of the BORT. State licensure ensures minimum imaging standards regarding licensure are applied in hospitals and imaging facilities across the state. Minimum standards maintain that radiologic technologists or limited permit technicians are adequately trained to safely perform imaging procedures on human patients.

The American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) provides an avenue for imaging professionals to become certified in the practice of Radiologic Technology. The ARRT does not mandate that technologists be licensed to practice radiography in the state. State licensure to practice radiography and ARRT certification and registration are independent of one another¹. Although the ARRT does administer some state licensure examinations, like the limited scope of practice and fluoroscopy, these exams are administered by the ARRT at the request of the state². This does not in any way "license" individuals to perform imaging exams. It is state licensure and the BORT that ensures healthcare facilities across the State of Montana follow the same guidelines for hiring trained and skilled radiologic technologists and limited permit technicians.

As patient advocates for radiation safety, the MSRT and radiologic technologists are concerned that with the elimination of the BORT, the potential for untrained individuals to perform imaging exams is very real. Patient safety is a high priority and the BORT provides a safety net for imaging professionals, healthcare facilities, and patients through annual licensure renewal and healthcare facility inspections provided by the BORT.

Any board member would be more than happy to discuss this issue with you. Please do not undo this legislation that is necessary for the protection of the citizens of Montana. Please see the contact information below. [Note: removed for online posting but available on request.]

Respectfully,

Jerri Doyle, MA, R.T. (R) (CT)
MSRT President

¹ <http://www.arrt.org/FAQ/State-Licensing>

² <http://www.arrt.org/Handbooks>