

Alliance for Quality Medical Imaging And Radiation Therapy

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FOUNDING MEMBERS

American Society
of Radiologic Technologists

Society of Nuclear Medicine
Technologist Section

MEMBERS

American Association of Medical
Assistants

American Association of Medical
Dosimetrists

American Association
of Physicists in Medicine

American Registry
of Radiologic Technologists

American Society of Echocardiography

Association of Educators in Imaging
and Radiologic Sciences Inc.

Association of Vascular and
Interventional Radiographers

Cardiovascular Credentialing
International

Joint Review Committee on Education
in Cardiovascular Technology

Joint Review Committee on Education
in Diagnostic Medical Sonography

Joint Review Committee on Education
in Radiologic Technology

Joint Review Committee
on Educational Programs
in Nuclear Medicine Technology

Medical Dosimetrist Certification Board

Nuclear Medicine Technology
Certification Board

Section for Magnetic Resonance
Technology

Society for Radiation Oncology
Administrators

Society for Vascular Ultrasound

Society of Diagnostic Medical
Sonography

Society of Invasive Cardiovascular
Professionals

ALLIANCE MEMBERS ARE DEDICATED
TO THE PROVISION OF SAFE,
HIGH-QUALITY MEDICAL IMAGING
AND RADIATION THERAPY.

June 13, 2012

Senator Tom Harkin

Chairman, Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions
731 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Michael B. Enzi

Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions
379A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Harkin and Enzi:

The Alliance for Quality Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy, made up of organizations representing more than 600,000 technical personnel who perform and plan medical imaging, plan and deliver radiation therapy, supports the enactment of the Consistency, Accuracy, Responsibility and Excellence (CARE) in Medical Imaging & Radiation Therapy bill and genuinely thanks you for your continuing support of the CARE legislation.

According to the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services, more than 300 million medical imaging procedures are performed on Medicare patients each year. Poor quality images can lead to misdiagnosis, additional testing, delays in treatment and needless anxiety for the patient. They also cost the U.S. health care system millions of dollars annually in needless medical bills. Medical imaging and radiation therapy personnel standards are needed to improve the quality of care and increase patient safety.

By setting education and certification standards for technical personnel who perform and plan imaging examinations and radiation therapy treatments in the Medicare system, the CARE bill will ensure that quality information is presented for diagnosis and that interventional care or radiation therapy leads to curative treatment for patients. It will also reduce health care costs by reducing the number of imaging or radiation therapy procedures that must be repeated due to improper positioning or poor technique.

As we are sure you are aware, the previous versions of the CARE bill have passed the Senate by unanimous consent and passed the HELP Committee without dissension. We remain hopeful that during this Congress the CARE bill will be enacted by the House and Senate and that millions of American patients will benefit from the enhanced quality of medical imaging examinations and increased efficacy of therapeutic treatments through the establishment of technical personnel standards.

With your guidance and support, the CARE bill can accomplish all of these goals and we request that the Senate take immediate action on the CARE bill. Millions of American patients we treat each year truly appreciate your efforts to create a patient-focused and quality-focused health care system through the introduction and enactment of the CARE bill.

Sincerely,

Founding Members

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Society of Nuclear Medicine Technologist Section

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Consulting Organizations

AHRA – the Association for Medical Imaging Management
American College of Radiology
American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography
American Society for Radiation Oncology
Intersocietal Accreditation Commission