



Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography  
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January 25, 2008

Linda A. Russell, Executive Director  
Oregon Board of Radiologic Technology  
800 NE Oregon St., Suite 1160A  
Portland, OR 97232-2187

Dear Ms. Russell and Members of the Oregon Board of Radiologic Technology (OBRT):

This letter is written on behalf of the following medical imaging organizations, all of which have Oregon members, registrants or policy interests:

- American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography (ARDMS),
- American Society of Echocardiography (ASE),
- Cardiovascular Credentialing International (CCI),
- Society for Vascular Surgery (SVS),
- Society for Vascular Ultrasound (SVU),
- Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography (SDMS), and
- Society of Invasive Cardiovascular Professionals (SICP).

Since the 2007 Legislative Session ended, we have been in frequent communication with your office/Board, various Oregon legislators and Ms. Claudia Black in her new role with the Oregon Governor's Office. Representatives from our various organizations have testified before the OBRT in numerous Legislative Update meetings. We have followed our public testimony activities with letters expressing our desire to work in a collaborative manner with the OBRT to affect a positive outcome as Oregon proposes the nation's first imaging licensure law which would include Sonography under its statutory provisions.

We do not believe a bill that simply inserts Sonography licensure language into Chapter 688, Radiologic Technologists and Radiation Therapists, can properly address the differences between the multiple imaging modalities and medical specialties. Sonography differs significantly from radiology technology (which uses ionizing radiation) in its credentialing, education and practical application.

As the SDMS representatives have previously testified, the plan is to have the imaging organizations listed above convene and develop collaborative legislative language reflecting both your concerns, as well as our own. It is the consensus of these imaging organizations that we could deliver this language to you and Representative Greenlick for consideration no later than August 1, 2008.

We have also communicated in previous correspondences that any licensure of sonographers should address, at a minimum, the following issues:

- Establishment of mandatory national credentialing. \*
- Establishment of minimum educational standards.\*
- Establishment of a new Oregon Board of Medical Imaging with representation from the various sonography specialties.
- Establishment of requirement for criminal background checks.

*\*There are bills (H.R. 583/S.1042), known as the CARE Bills (Consistency, Accuracy, Responsibility and Excellence in Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy), currently pending before Congress that would require the establishment of the first two quality standards listed above.*

However, we were informed just this week that by next week we must review and respond to the pending Legislative Concept language (draft legislation) being drafted by the OBRT's Legal Committee. This is in anticipation of the OBRT's February 15, 2008 Board Meeting and the first that we knew of such a deadline. We must advise that it is impossible to respond within this time frame.

We understand there will be legislative work sessions concurrent with OBRT drafting efforts so there could be an opportunity for input and changes perhaps as late as August of 2008. There was also an interim date of late March mentioned, however, even with the March date it will be difficult for our groups to properly inform those whom we represent of what is being proposed and to offer our consensus input.

We had hoped for a true collaborative effort. We believe all of us have the same goals and interests pertaining to this legislative effort. We do not believe it is a reasonable expectation that the sonography community could provide you with thoughtful and informed input within the next week. (We have not yet seen draft language from the OBRT). Dramatically limiting the timeframe for appropriate language development is harmful to the goal of patient-centered public policy that has been requested by Oregon elected officials.

We share your concern for quality medical care and patient access. We remain fully committed to working with you to craft legislative language for Oregon that will serve as a standard of quality patient care for the citizens of Oregon and potentially serve as a model for the rest of the country.

Simply, the task at hand for an inclusive medical imaging bill cannot be done in a week. It probably cannot be done in the next two months. Yet we wish to work with you to find the most equitable solution and are committed to continuing our work into the next Legislative Session and as the administrative rules are developed in the future.

We look forward to your response, respectfully,



Donald F. Haydon, CAE  
Chief Executive Officer & Executive Director  
Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography

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Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography (SDMS)  
Society of Invasive Cardiovascular Professionals (SICP)

Cc: Representative Mitch Greenlick  
Senator Avel Gordly  
Claudia Black, Liaison, Governor Ted Kulongoski's Office