



October 4, 2021

United States Congress
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Support for S. 2641, the Medicare Access to Radiology Care Act (MARCA)

Dear Senators Brian Schatz and Mazie Hirono:

The Hawaii Society of Radiologic Technologists (HSRT) urges you to co-sponsor S. 2641, the Medicare Access to Radiology Care Act (MARCA) introduced by Senator John Boozman (R-AR).

The HSRT represents over 1,000 medical imaging and radiation therapy professionals in Hawai'i. The goal of the HSRT is to advance the profession of radiologic sciences by establishing and maintaining high standards of education, to elevate the quality of patient care and to improve the welfare and socio-economics of radiologic science professionals. The radiologic technology profession includes radiographers, radiation therapists, nuclear medicine technologists, magnetic resonance technologists, sonographers and radiologist assistants, along with other imaging disciplines.

Without complete Medicare reimbursement for RA services made to radiology practices employing RAs as members of the radiologist-led team, the profession is in peril. Radiologists who employ RAs are unable to submit claims to Medicare for non-diagnostic services performed by RAs they directly supervise in both the hospital and office setting, as well as for diagnostic services in hospitals. As a direct result of Medicare's current policy, RAs are losing their jobs and are unable to practice to the full extent of their capabilities. Medicare patients are not receiving the full benefit of care provided by qualified and experienced radiology professionals.

This bill provides for complete Medicare reimbursement allowing RAs to be fully utilized as part of the radiologist-led team to provide high quality, efficient and cost-effective care to patients. RAs are rigorously educated with a radiologist-supervised clinical preceptorship and nationally certified. RAs help to reduce delays in care for procedures and consultations and are specially trained in radiation safety and image quality that affects the diagnostic value of patient examinations. This unique and essential training ensures the best image at the lowest possible radiation dose.

The adoption of MARCA would also enable radiologists to devote more focused time to reviewing and interpreting complex medical images or urgent cases, thus increasing patient access to care. RAs will be able to work more efficiently and to the full extent of their education, and Medicare patients will receive care from qualified RAs regardless of the facility in which their procedure takes place.

This legislation is supported by the radiology stakeholder community including, the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists, the American Society of Radiologic Technologists, and the Society of Radiology Physician Extenders, as well as 114 other national, state, and local organizations.

The HSRT would appreciate your support for changes within the Medicare program to allow radiologists to bill for services provided by RAs to help ensure that Medicare patients maintain access to efficient, high-quality radiology services.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jodi A.T. Nakaoka".

Jodi Ann T. Nakaoka, President
Hawaii Society of Radiologic Technologists