



**BROWN**  
Alpert Medical School

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Dear Senator Whitehouse,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Radiologists at Rhode Island Hospital ask to you to support the soon to be introduced Senate companion to H.R. 4614. This bipartisan legislation was introduced by Representatives Pete Olson (R-TX) and Mike Doyle (D-TX) that provides changes to the Medicare program to define the role of Radiology Assistants (RAs) and align physician supervision requirements with state law.

The Radiology Assistant is an advanced Mid-level practitioner, who assists the Radiologist in the minutia of the daily functions within the diagnostic imaging department. Radiology Assistants complete a thorough academic program and must pass a nationally recognized certification board. An RA can be certified by the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists or the Certification Board for Radiology Practitioner Assistants. RAs practice under the onsite supervision of a Radiologist, thus ensuring the highest level of care. With the growing need for intricate imaging and procedures, the Radiology Assistant has become a valuable asset within our practice.

Here at Rhode Island Hospital our radiologists rely on our RA in our Radiology Department to improve patient care, safety, practice efficiency, and provide quality diagnostic and therapeutic services. Our RA also works closely with the residents of our program and aids us in their education and experience. This role allows for our radiologists to spend more time reviewing imaging, consulting with other physicians, and perform more complex procedures.

As a group we fully support the role of Radiology Assistants and would appreciate your support for changes within the Medicare program to recognize the role of RAs, as set out in H.R. 4614. Thank you for your time and attention on this matter.

Sincerely,

John J. Cronan, M.D.

JJC/gp