



May 14, 2020

The Honorable Joe Neguse
1419 Longworth House Office
Building Washington, DC
20515

The Honorable Kendra Horn
415 Cannon House Office
Building Washington, DC
20515

Dear Representatives Neguse and Horn:

The novel Coronavirus 2019 has reshaped many Americans' personal and professional lives and has led to unprecedented financial uncertainty for tens of millions. In response, Congress passed four laws to combat COVID-19 and provide relief for different sectors of the American economy, including small businesses and individuals that have been greatly impacted. Now Congress must continue this legislative effort and come together to give relief for those essential workers on the frontline who have shown true selflessness and heroism. These are the workers who stock grocery stores, who maintain critical infrastructure, and of course, who provide treatment and health care for those patients affected by COVID-19.

The American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) is a national, voluntary certification organization that develops and administers standards to assess the qualifications of individuals in medical imaging, nuclear medicine and radiation therapy. It was founded in 1922 and is incorporated as a not-for-profit under the Internal Revenue Code Section 501(C)(6). ARRT currently registers 330,000 individuals nationwide as Registered Technologists.

We applaud your efforts to secure hazard pay for critical frontline health care workers by introducing H.R. 6484, the Hazard Pay for the Frontlines During Health Emergencies Act. H.R. 6484 creates a framework of an additional 25 percent of a covered health care employee's salary as hazard pay during public emergencies, and includes 100 percent federal reimbursement for these expenses. This is exactly the kind of legislation that Congress should look at that pays special attention to these essential health care workers by assisting them if they have incurred additional costs during the pandemic due to childcare, senior care, or protective measures to keep their families safe. It is vital that this framework be included in any COVID-19 response legislation that Congress next debates.



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In any definition of a covered employee capable of receiving the aforementioned hazard pay, it needs to be as inclusive as possible with pay coverage for all essential employees. As this should surely be congressional intent, we note that H.R. 6484 excludes radiation therapists from receiving hazard pay as a covered employee. Radiation therapists provide essential frontline health care in the field of radiation oncology. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has classified radiation therapists as members of the essential critical infrastructure workforce. Oncologic care has been greatly impacted by the pandemic given the even greater threat to immunosuppressed cancer patients. Cancer care is in the middle of an intersection between the desire to safeguard a vulnerable patient population from COVID-19 while providing the cancer patient the necessary treatment.

Radiation therapists, like dozens of other health care professionals, are tirelessly putting their lives on the line in the service of others during this pandemic. In their case, continuing to provide radiation therapy treatments for COVID-19 patients. As such, we urge that when discussing H.R. 6484 with House Leadership for inclusion in any COVID-19 response bill, that these professionals be included. Their efforts can, and should, be recognized by the Federal Government.

We thank you for recognizing the efforts of health care professionals during this time and look forward to working with you as on a federal hazard pay framework. Please do not hesitate to contact me at (651) 687-0048, ext. 3121 if I can provide further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jerry B. Reid". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jerry B. Reid, Ph.D.
Executive Director