**Subject** Constituent Request: Cosponsor HB 1904 / SB 769

I am a constituent and a radiologic technologist and I am writing to ask you to cosponsor H.R. 1904 introduced by Rep. Pete Olson (R-TX) on April 5, and its Senate companion bill, S. 769 introduced by Sen. John Boozman, R-Ark on March 30. These bills are important bipartisan legislation that will align Medicare's current physician supervision requirements for radiology services performed by radiologist assistants and radiology practitioner assistants (RAs) with the state supervision requirements for these health care providers. H.R. 1904 and S. 769 are common-sense legislation and will amend the Medicare statute to recognize RAs as a non-physician providers under Medicare. Under the bill, state law would govern scope of practice and physician supervision levels for procedures performed by RAs. This would enable Medicare to become more efficient and will help to ensure patients have access to care provided by qualified health care personnel.

A radiologist assistant is an advanced-level radiographer who assists, but does not replace, the radiologist in the diagnostic imaging environment. RAs must complete a rigorous academic program based on a nationally-recognized curriculum and radiologist-directed clinical experience culminating in the minimum of a baccalaureate degree, and successfully pass a nationally recognized certification examination. Today, eight universities offer RA educational programs, and 31 states license, certify or recognize RAs. A RA can be certified by the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) as a registered radiologist assistant or by the Certification Board for Radiology Practitioner Assistants as a radiology practitioner assistant. RAs always practice under the onsite supervision of a radiologist, thus ensuring the continuation of high quality care. Their advanced education and clinical competence provides RAs with the experience to perform assessments and procedures. However, RAs may not interpret the results of medical imaging procedures or prescribe medications or treatments, which are activities performed by the supervising radiologist.

Unfortunately, Medicare currently does not recognize the RA profession and imposes the same physician supervision requirements on RAs that it applies to radiologic technologists who have not met the same rigorous education and clinical experience requirements. This lack of recognition promotes inefficiencies in health care delivery and ignores potential cost savings.

H.R.1904 and S. 769 are supported by more than 50 national, state, and local organizations including the American College of Radiology, ARRT, American Society of Radiologic Technologists and the Society of Radiology Physician Extenders.

As a constituent, I support H.R. 1904 and S. 769 and hope to see your name on the bills' cosponsor list soon.

Sincerely,

Name

Address

Telephone

Email