Felicia Ferreira

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Dear Members of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health,

 My name is Felicia Ferreira and I am a student from Bunker Hill Community College in the Radiology Program, graduating in 2 months. I am submitting this written testimony in opposition to the implementation of limited-scope radiography in Massachusetts.

I am going to provide a brief background of my life so you can have a better understanding of my opposition. I have worked and continue to work diligently in this 2 year program to become a licensed Radiologic Technologist. I can honestly say this has been the most difficult two years of my life. I had unexpectedly gotten pregnant right when I started school on top of already having 2 young children. I have had to cut my hours at work to be able to dedicate the time and work into this program to learn the abundance of information that this career entails. I have lost out on quality time with my children and the ability to enjoy and watch my little baby girl grow because of the dedication of this program. It is completely unfair to give the ability to others to skate their way into becoming limited scope machine operators as I lose out, as well as others, to go through this intense program to become licensed.

There is too much information that cannot be taught in such a short amount of time. This career is too important to not have proper education, licensing, testing and better yet, high expectations. You cannot just throw anyone into this and expect them to thrive and take patient safety into consideration. I have spent many clinical hours to ensure proper techniques, safety, and high quality diagnostic images. With limited-scope x-ray machine operators receiving significantly less training is very concerning. The minimal education they would receive could lead to potential misdiagnoses due poorly positioned and low quality images which in turn could lead to repeat exposures.

Massachusetts is known for its high standards in patient care and we should not be lowering any qualifications for individuals performing X-ray exams that can risk compromising the safety and effectiveness to diagnostic imaging. I stand in full support of the Massachusetts Society of Radiologic Technologists and their recommendations to uphold strong professional standards for radiologic imaging.

I urge the Department of Public Health to carefully consider these concerns and recommendations to ensure any changes made prioritize patient well-being and maintain the integrity of our profession.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Felicia Ferreira