**From:** Zach Bird

**To:** DPH-Testimony, Reg (DPH)

**Subject:** Revision of 105 CMR 125.00

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Massachusetts Department of Public Health,

Below is my written testimony regarding the Proposed 105 CMR 125.00 Revision. I am a current Medical Radiography student set to graduate in just over 2 months. Over the past 2 years I have become an expert in a variety of subjects including but not limited to anatomy, pathology, radiologic techniques, radiologic physics and most importantly radiation protection. I am not too proud to admit that when I entered this field I thought that X-Ray was simply point and shoot. But I was quickly proven wrong. I was taught the importance of precision and perfection. How repeating an exam because your positioning was off only a few degrees can have life threatening repercussions to the patient. It could lead to a miss diagnosis due to obscured anatomy, charges of assault & battery due to carelessness and complacency brought against the technologist, and even severe biological harm to the patient including cataracts, sterility, loss of pregnancy, & cancer. Perfection is drilled into us from day one, which is why our programs are so tough and so many students to make it to graduation, but it’s these strict guidelines that make us be the best we can so that we can protect the public.

Before I started school I spent nearly a decade working in law enforcement. I still vividly remember the head of my academy class telling us that we had chosen the worst time to become police officers since the civil rights movement. And he was right, as I progressed through my career I saw fewer and fewer recruits with the appropriate & necessary qualities of a good Police Officer applying. This hurt the profession and forced us to drop our standards more and more in order to get bodies to fill positions. This of course led to the policing world we see today. A world full of unqualified individuals who should never have made it through the selection progress let alone the academy. And when I look at this revision I see we are on the verge of the same thing happening to this profession. Limited scope is just the beginning, it starts with one exception for Urgent Cares or orthopedic offices and then hospitals start to think that they could save a whole heck of a lot of money by replacing experts with

individuals who have a fraction of the training. But it won’t stop there, soon they will start to think the same for other professions like CT, MRI, Ultrasound…. The bottom line as far as I can see is that it comes down to money. We are specially trained professionals why know our skills are necessary and highly sought after so we ask a fair livable wage. I’m sure corporate hospital leadership will argue that there aren’t enough technologist to fill the positions they have but that’s a straight lie. Between the 4 schools I have worked with at my clinical site there is an expected 45 new graduates within the new 2 months. Which is less than a third of all the schools producing new techs. So it isn’t a matter of personnel, it’s a matter of money and corporate greed that will lead to a massive blow to the professionalism of this field and will do nothing but hurt the people who need our help.

Thank you for taking the time to read my argument against the proposed revision 105 CMR

125.00. Please reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns I will be happy to answer them. I hope you make the right choice for the good of those we help everyday.

Sincerely,

Zachary Bird