



New England Chapter of the AAPM

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October 24, 2011

Susan C. Fargo
 Senate Chair
 Joint Committee on Public Health
 Room 504
 State House
 Boston, MA 02133

Mr. Jeffrey Sanchez
 House Chair
 Joint Committee on Public Health
 Room 130
 State House
 Boston, MA 02133

Re: H. 3515 – An Act Relative to the Practice of Medical Physics

I am writing to you as the President of the New England Chapter of the American Association of Physicists in Medicine (NEAAPM) in enthusiastic support of H.3515 – An Act Relative to the Practice of Medical Physics. The AAPM is the largest professional organization representing medical physicists with more than 7,700 members nationally. Our local chapter represents those members in the New England states. Professionally, I am a nuclear medicine physicist certified by the American Board of Radiology who resides in Jamaica Plain and works in the Division of Nuclear Medicine and the Department of Radiology at Children’s Hospital Boston. I am also an Associate Professor of Radiology at Harvard Medical School. I have practiced medical nuclear physics for more than 25 years.

For the safety and well being of our patients, it is essential that medical physics be practiced by those fully qualified in the field. In my field of nuclear medicine, it is the medical physicist who ensures that the equipment is properly working, that a quality assurance program is in place to ensure continued proper operation to protect our patients from studies that may be non-optimal or may expose them in inappropriate levels of ionizing radiation. The proper practice of nuclear medicine and diagnostic radiology physics ensures the safety of our patients and coworkers while providing the highest quality of care to our patients. At Children’s Hospital, this can be of particular importance where we are often applying very sophisticated nuclear medicine and radiologic tests to the most vulnerable members of our society who are often incredibly sick and in desperate need of the excellence of our care. Licensure in medical physics helps to ensure that only those with the proper training, experience and credentials are allowed to practice this most important field.

I thank you for this opportunity to address you on this very important topic and urge to move forward with H.3515. If you have any questions on my statement or on the practice of nuclear medicine physics, please do not hesitate to contact me (Frederic.fahey@childrens.harvard.edu, 617-355-2809).

Sincerely,

Frederic H. Fahey, DSc, DABR, FAAPM
 President, New England Chapter of the
 American Association of Physicists in Medicine