

**Statement of Frederic Fahey before the Massachusetts Joint Committee on Public Health
October 25, 2011**

First of all, I would like to thank Chairpersons Fargo and Sanchez, and members of this committee, for allowing me to speak to you today in support of House Bill 3515, *An Act Relative to the Practice of Medical Physics*.

My name is Frederic Fahey and as the President of the New England Chapter of the American Association of Physicists in Medicine, I am honored to speak on their behalf in enthusiastic support of this bill. The AAPM is the largest organization representing medical physicists with over 7,700 members nationwide. The New England Chapter represents those members in the New England states including Massachusetts.

Professionally, I am a nuclear medicine physicist certified by the American Board of Radiology with over 25 years of experience. I practice medical nuclear physics in the Division of Nuclear Medicine and Department of Radiology at Children's Hospital Boston. I am also an Associate Professor of Radiology at Harvard Medical School. In addition, I am the President-Elect of the Society of Nuclear Medicine, the largest, international organization representing the fields of nuclear medicine with over 17,000 members. I was raised in Ashland, Massachusetts, I reside in Jamaica Plain, and I received my Bachelors in Physics from the University of Massachusetts Amherst and my Doctor of Science in Medical Radiological Physics from the Harvard School of Public Health.

Nuclear medicine and radiology provide clinical information that is essential to the proper and successful treatment of patients within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. In addition, radiation oncology plays a vital part in the armamentarium used to fight cancer. We are curing cancer every day, one patient at a time. At Children's Hospital, we see the sickest of children cured of a variety of diseases, including cancer, on a daily basis due in no small part to the diagnosis and treatment provided by nuclear medicine, radiology and radiation oncology.

These specialties all involve the use of ionizing radiation and therefore their safe, efficient and successful application requires the proper practice of medical physics. In particular, the medical physicist ensures the following:

- Protection of our patients and co-workers from exposure to ionizing radiation;
- Proper operation of our equipment through the design and implementation of quality assurance programs;
- Development of proper procedures to ensure excellent image quality; and
- Optimization of techniques to assure the most beneficial results while exposing the patient to the least amount of radiation possible.

The proper practice of medical physics is critical for the safe, efficient and successful application of these specialties and thus it is essential that medical physicists have the appropriate training, experience and credentials. House Bill 3515 will ensure that this is, in fact, the case. For these reasons, the New England Chapter of the AAPM, and I, personally, strongly endorse the passing of this bill and urge your support. I would be happy to try to answer any questions you may have.

Thank you for your time and consideration.