

Dear _____:

Most Americans take it for granted that the person taking their x-ray, performing their MRI scan, delivering their radiation therapy, or calculating radiation treatment is a competent professional. The fact is, poorly trained individuals examine, plan, and treat patients in this country every day, because there are no mandated federal standards these employees must meet. That's why I am asking you to support an important piece of patient-care legislation. The Consistency, Accuracy, Responsibility and Excellence in Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy Act or CARE bill would establish basic educational and credentialing standards for health care personnel who perform our nation's medical imaging examinations, plan, and deliver radiation therapy procedures.

The CARE bill would amend the Consumer-Patient Radiation Health and Safety Act of 1981, which gave the states recommendations for licensing radiologic personnel. Because compliance with the 1981 Act was voluntary, only 35 states have enacted licensure laws, and many of those laws do not match the standards recommended by the federal government.

As a result, thousands of individuals with limited education are performing imaging and radiation therapy procedures on patients every day. Inadequately educated personnel pose a risk to patients, because an improperly performed procedure can lead to misdiagnosis or a delay in treatment.

Congress now has the opportunity to improve the quality of radiologic care by establishing competency standards for those who provide it. I urge you to voice your support for quality health care:

Please contact the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) and encourage the agency to score Senator Wyden's amendment on rural health that includes the **CARE bill** as soon as possible.

Please cosponsor H.R. 3652 (the Consistency, Accuracy, Responsibility and Excellence (CARE) in Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy bill). Please contact Hill Thomas in Rep. John Barrow's office to be listed as a cosponsor.

Please include the CARE bill in the health care reform discussion because CARE provides for high-quality medical imaging and radiation therapy patient care and saves Medicare dollars!

Sincerely,