



2/12/2020

Congresswoman Angie Craig  
United States Congress  
Washington, DC 20515

Re: H.R. 1970 the Medicare Access to Radiology Care Act (MARCA)

Dear Representative Craig,

The Minnesota Society of Radiologic Technologist (MSRT) urges you to co-sponsor H.R. 1970, MARCA, introduced by Representative Michael Doyle (D-PA).

The MSRT represents over 6,000 medical imaging and radiation therapy professionals in Minnesota and over 1,300 in the Second Congressional District. The mission of the MSRT is to advance the profession of radiologic sciences by establishing and maintaining high standards of education, to elevate the quality of patient care and to improve welfare and socio-economics of radiologic science professionals. The radiologic technology profession includes radiographers, radiation therapists, nuclear medicine technologists, magnetic resonance technologists, sonographers and radiologist assistants, along with other imaging disciplines.

H.R. 1970 is common-sense bipartisan legislation that would help maintain access to radiology services for our growing Medicare population and support high value, team-based radiologic care. The CY 2019 Physician Fee Schedule (PFS) Final Rule issued by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) recognized radiologist assistants (R.A.s) as non-physician staff who can provide services to Medicare patients under direct radiologist supervision levels as determined by state law. However, legislation is still needed to allow radiology practices to submit claims to Medicare for non-diagnostic services performed in hospital and office settings by R.A.s and supervised by radiologists. This bill would allow radiology practices employing radiologist assistants to fully utilize these qualified individuals to provide efficient and cost-effective care to patients.

Radiologist assistants (R.A.s) must complete a rigorous academic program encompassing a nationally-recognized curriculum, a radiologist-directed clinical preceptorship, and a mandatory nationally-recognized certification examination. R.A.s always practice under the supervision of a radiologist, thus ensuring the continuation of high-quality care. The advanced education and training of R.A.s enable them to perform assessments and procedures, but not to perform final interpretation of images or prescribe medications or therapies. R.A.s allow radiologists to focus on image interpretation, complex cases and consulting with referring physicians, thus enhancing patient safety and outcomes.

H.R. 1970 is supported by 118 national, state, and local organizations including the American Society of Radiologic Technologists, American College of Radiology, American Registry of Radiologic Technologists, Academy of Radiology Physician Extenders and the Society of Radiology Physician Extenders.

The MSRT would appreciate your support for changes within the Medicare program to allow radiologists to bill for services provided by R.A.s to help ensure that Medicare patients maintain access to efficient, high-quality radiology services.

Respectfully,



Jill Lucas, R.T.(R)(M), BAH  
MSRT President-elect



Scott Haglund, MAED, R.T.(R), LAT, ATC  
MSRT President