

**From:** Maureen Maxand  
**To:** [Rep. Sam Kito](#)  
**Subject:** HB 89  
**Date:** Thursday, March 16, 2017 10:48:22 AM

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Good morning,

I am writing out of concern about HB 89. I have been employed at Wrangell Medical center since 1995 as a Radiology tech. I was a Veterinary Tech II before that and was qualified to perform Radiographs. Myself and another employee have done extensive training and did 6 months hands on probationary training prior to being hired. We also did other training through courses and hands on at Providence prior to being able to perform CT studies.

Our hospital has upgraded technologies several times over the years. Going from plain film to single phase to 3 phase to CR to DR we all went through training for each new upgrade. Each upgrade was beneficial to lowering Radiation doses to patients.

HB 89 would have a very negative impact on our community as well as a multitude of other rural areas. Can you imagine having to fly from say Kake to Ketchikan (weather permitting) every time it was suspected a bone was broken or to set a dislocated finger? To rule out constipation vs. appendicitis. The difficulties and expense of retaining a full time or even part time registered Tech for small communities would prohibit small rural clinics and hospitals to provide the best patient care possible.

The State Radiation officer and the Physicist annually oversee and instruct on radiation safety and dose reduction.

For many years the Supervisor (who is licensed) and I took turns every other week on call after hours and weekends. This was not ideal but it worked well until she had a major health issue and I had to leave town at the same time. We were able to hire temp employees to come and fill in, but not being familiar with our procedures and systems, even after being trained it was a complete disaster. We were fortunate not to be sued. It is also a tremendous expense to house and use locums. Wrangell Medical Center spends tens of thousands on traveling nurses and Dr.s as it is. After nearly a decade we hired and trained another person to perform x-ray and share on call schedule. We all also took extensive courses and did hands on training at Providence and with instructor here prior to being qualified to perform CT studies. I have also been the only Tech in town for several weeks at a time on occasions without any problems.

Of course my main concern is self centered in wanting to retain my career until I can retire. I am 58 yrs old and take 250 hours of call a month. I also have a business that will not support me should I lose my job. Wrangell has been my home for nearly 40 years. This bill would destroy my life and countless other dedicated techs around the state. Alaska is a unique state with unique situations that require adaptable solutions. I sincerely hope a compromise can be found to fairly permit long term employees to retain our jobs. Unemployment would not suffice. Please consider all these points and create a wise alternative to pushing this bill though impulsively. Has there ever been a problem or lawsuit in recent years because a tech did harm?

Thank you for your time.

Maureen Maxand

Wrangell Medical Center

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**From:** [Crystal Koeneman](#)  
**To:** [Tally Teal](#)  
**Subject:** FW: HB 89  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 15, 2017 5:12:05 PM  
**Importance:** High

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**From:** Ann Kramer [mailto:[Ann.Kramer@wrangellmedical.org](mailto:Ann.Kramer@wrangellmedical.org)]

**Sent:** Wednesday, March 15, 2017 4:52 PM

**To:** Rep. Sam Kito

**Cc:** Robert Rang

**Subject:** HB 89

**Importance:** High

Good Afternoon Representative Sam Kito

I am very concerned about the impact of HB89 will have in my community and others around Alaska.

I have worked as a Registered Radiologic Technologist since 1977. I have spent the past 22 years practicing in Wrangell, Alaska at Wrangell Medical Center.

Prior to my employment the hospital had cross trained the Laboratory Technologists in radiology and ultrasound. There were two other employees that had been cross trained in mammography. All of these staff members did an excellent job with their imaging and documenting.

August of 1994 I was hired because the government changed some of the rules. Medicare and Medicaid would not reimburse the hospital for screening mammograms unless they were performed by a Registered Radiologic Technologist with a Mammography Advanced Certification. Secondly, the Facility must be an ACR Accredited Facility.

I arrived August 1994. Between signing my agreement and traveling from Tennessee the Laboratory Staff had resigned. I was on call 24 hours a day 7 days a week until May 1995. I was the only Technologist on the island, so I began training someone to perform general x-rays. She worked for several years helping with call and vacations. Due to health reasons she had to resign. I trained another man to perform x-rays and help with call. He went on to school for Cardiac and Vascular Technology.

Late 1990's I trained two more individuals to perform x-rays. One of them worked 4 days a week and the other one worked 1 day a week. We all three of us take call for Radiology and CT. I am also on call for Ultrasound. One of them has been in their position for 21 yrs. and the other staff member has been in their position for 17 years.

Neither of them, registered/licensed technologist and I would put up against any registered technologist out there.

They both have taken Radiologic Technology Online courses and completed program through Glacier Medical in Washington State.

We have all 3 successfully completed several course through MIC in Anatomy and Physiology and CT Technology.

The State Radiation Inspector, Clyde Pearce, has given all of us radiation safety training several times over the years.

I haven't heard of any Radiologic Technologist that can't find a job in Alaska. There is a shortage of technologist willing to come to Alaska and that is only going to get worse.

Please seriously consider not backing, supporting or voting for this bill.

Next, if you do support this bill and would vote for it, I believe you should provide for a clause to Grandfather in the individuals who are currently working in the Radiology/CT/Imaging field in Alaska.

Consider a date in the future say 5 years out so we can all prepare for this. The bill reads it is

to become effective July 1 2017 if passed. That's just not time for people to get the necessary training that the bill requires in the real working world. This bill will just be denying a lot of people access to imaging capabilities, delay of care due to time, travel and increased cost. Does the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development even have a licensure Exam for qualified individuals to sit for?

If there is, who can I contact about it?

Thank you

Ann Kramer, ARRT R M, RDMS Imaging Department

[ann.kramer@wrangellmedical.org](mailto:ann.kramer@wrangellmedical.org)

907 874-7128

Wrangell Medical Center

Imaging Department

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