



**NEW YORK STATE SOCIETY
OF
RADIOLOGIC SCIENCES, INC.**

Post Office Box 534
Northville, New York 12134

February 4, 2022

RE: NYS A3870
Letter for Supplementation

Dear:

The New York State Society of Radiologic Sciences (NYSSRS) is a nonprofit professional organization that serves as the voice for more than 20,575 licensed radiologic technologists in New York State. NYSSRS is a valued affiliate of the American Society of Radiologic Technologists with a membership of more than 157,000 technologists nationwide.

We are contacting you regarding an issue that is important to all New York State front line health care workers. A3870 amends the education law, in relation to establishing the New York State COVID-19 health care worker loan forgiveness program. NYSSRS commends the plan to grant awards to "health care workers" who have earned a bachelor's degree and would be eligible for this benefit and meet the definition.

Definitions. For the purposes of this section, the following terms

10 shall have the following meanings:

11 (a) "health care worker" shall mean any person working as a nurse,

12 registered professional nurse, licensed practical nurse, nurse practi-

13 tioner, clinical nurse specialist, certified nurse assistant, medical

14 assistant, physician assistant, specialist assistant, pathologists'

15 assistant, medical technician, respiratory therapy technicians, medical

16 technologist, diagnostic medical sonographer,
emergency medical techni-
17 cian, paramedic, phlebotomist, clinical support
aid, or immediate treat-
18 ment assistant during the coronavirus disease
2019 (COVID-19) state of
19 emergency.

NYSSRS applauds the inclusion of the named health care workers. However, NYSSRS has specific concerns with AB 3870. As drafted, this bill would only apply to the defined healthcare workers, but excludes an essential group of dedicated, front –line individuals, Diagnostic Imaging professionals. Diagnostic imaging plays a vital role in detecting and assessing disease specific to COVID-19 illness.

Diagnostic Imaging professionals include occupations and professions such as licensed radiologic technologists, CT technologists, nuclear medical technologists, radiation therapists, radiologist assistants, MRI technologists, interventional radiologic technologists and bone densitometry specialists. Frequently, these professionals are among the first to care for COVID-19 patients providing emergency chest x-rays and follow-up care which includes daily examinations in special COVID-19 care units.

Be assured that the NYSSRS does not advocate for removal or exclusion of the already named professionals, rather we recommend that this bill be supplemented by the addition of named Diagnostic Imaging professionals. We strongly urge you to ensure that this bill would ensure that ALL front-line professional workers who meet the requirements for educational loan forgiveness grants be included.

NYSSRS hopes that the New York Legislature will recognize the expertise and dedication of radiologic technologists and medical imaging specialists who continue to safely administer necessary care to COVID-19 and all patients. Thank you for taking the time to consider our concerns, we are always available to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Raymond Fradella MS, RT(R)
President New York State Society of Radiologic Sciences
raymondafradella@gmail.com

Cynthia Close MA, RT(R), RDMS, RDCS
Vice President New York State Society of Radiologic Sciences
Legislative Chair
cclose1951@gmail.com