

LETTERHEAD OF PHYSICIAN OR INSTITUTION

Assemblyman Richard Gottfried
822 LOB
Albany, N.Y. 12248

Dear Assemblyman Gottfried,

I am writing in support of your bill and S.1812 (Rivera) which authorize physician assistants (PA) who have successfully completed a didactic and clinical educational program to engage in the use of fluoroscopy for guidance during diagnostic and therapeutic procedures. PAs in New York currently cannot use fluoroscopy and that leads to delays in care and decreased patient access.

Fluoroscopy is a commonly used type of medical imaging that shows a continuous “real time” x-ray image on a monitor, much like a video compared to a still-picture. Physicians throughout New York, in both inpatient and outpatient settings, work daily with PAs providing care to patients as part of the team-oriented approach to healthcare. Allowing PAs to perform fluoroscopy will improve access to care by making care more efficient, and increase patient satisfaction.

Your upcoming legislation advances this goal by requiring the Department of Health to establish an educational plan where PAs would be required to complete both didactic and clinical education in fluoroscopy, including education on radiation safety. Already in a vast majority of states, PAs are authorized to perform fluoroscopic exams. Recognizing the need for PAs to be able to utilize fluoroscopy and the need for standardized education, the American Academy of Physician Assistants and the American Society of Radiologic Technologists together developed an educational framework and competency assessment program that is nationally accepted to help ensure that PAs performing fluoroscopy are properly prepared. The education consists of forty hours of didactic and forty hours of clinical training, and includes radiation safety.

The ability of PAs to utilize fluoroscopy will increase access to care and greatly improve the quality, safety, and efficiency of procedures routinely performed throughout the healthcare continuum. As a physician, allowing PAs to perform fluoroscopy would improve my ability to provide safe, quality, timely care and help the citizens of our State. I fully support your assembly bill and bill S.1812 (Rivera), and urge their passage by the Legislature.

Thank you for your consideration of this important healthcare matter.

Sincerely,