



States Consider, Pass Imaging Bills

Several states this year have passed or are considering imaging-related bills. Below is a summary of the legislative activity in Arkansas, Connecticut, New Mexico and Washington.

Arkansas



An interim panel of the Arkansas General Assembly is considering a bill (H.B. 1108) that

would permit only radiologists to perform MR, CT and PET diagnostic imaging and radiation therapy — before convening for its next regular session in February 2010. During the regular session, which ended April 9, the bill was withdrawn from consideration by its sponsor in the state House Public Health, Welfare and Labor Committee because a majority of the panel's members opposed it. The ACC's Arkansas Chapter worked closely with the state medical society to have the bill withdrawn. Both will continue to work together by presenting evidence to the interim panel showing the negative effects of limiting access to imaging.

Connecticut



The Connecticut Senate soon will consider a bill (S.B. 1047) that would require the technical

component of MR, CT or PET procedures performed under leasing arrangements to be billed either directly to the patient or to a third-party payer. The legislation also requires direct physician supervision of the personnel performing the procedure. The ACC's Connecticut Chapter has contacted the chair of the Senate Public Health Committee in support of the bill, but articulated concerns around possible floor amendments that could change the bill's intent. The Connecticut State Medical Society (CSMS) opposes the bill. Following the bill's passage, it will be sent to the Conn. House for consideration.

New Mexico



New Mexico Gov. **Bill Richardson (D)** on April 6 signed into law the Medical Imaging and

Radiation Therapy Health and Safety Act (H.B. 498). This law mandates licensure for MR technologists, diagnostic medical sonographers, nuclear medicine technologists, radiographers and radiation therapy technologists. It also requires continuing education credits as a condition for licensure renewal and creates a medical imaging and radiation therapy advisory council. The law represents a significant

step toward ensuring quality patient care and imaging safety by mandating minimum standards of education, training and continuing education for diagnostic imaging technologists and radiation therapy technologists. The New Mexico Chapter will work with ACC and stakeholders to ensure that the rulemaking process and the appointments to the advisory committee protect patient quality and imaging safety.

Washington



Washington Gov.

Christine Gregoire (D) is expected to sign into law a bill (H.B. 2105)

that would set quality standards for MR, CT and PET imaging tests and cardiac nuclear medicine services. If signed, the bill creates a stakeholder workgroup charged with identifying evidence-based guidelines for advanced diagnostic imaging by July 2009, to be implemented by state-purchased health care programs beginning September 2009. The bill also would require the adoption of accreditation procedures for advanced diagnostic imaging as mandated by the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008, a provision strongly supported by the ACC. The bill was passed by large margins in both the state House and Senate.



State Advocacy Critical, BOG Chair States

Board of Governors Chair **John Gordon Harold, M.D., F.A.C.C.**, discusses the importance of state advocacy on ACC's online forum, The Lewin Report. Harold writes — "ACC chapters work together with the ACC to pursue critical state legislative initiatives, such as maintaining access to office-based imaging, ensuring appropriate STEMI care, championing health advocacy and promoting public safety."

He gives an example from his home chapter of California on how partnerships can lead to legislative victories. Read the post in full at lewinreport.acc.org.