

The CARE Bill is Closer than Ever...NC Call to Action!

Before I ask for your help AGAIN, I want to let you know that there is another National CARE Bill. It is HR 5034, The Comprehensive Alcohol Regulatory Effectiveness Act of 2010. When you contact your Representative, please be specific that you are calling in support of HR 3652 the **Consistency, Accuracy, Responsibility, and Excellence in Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy**.

Let me tell you how proud I am of NC! When the ASRT Grassroots Committee sends reports regarding State Activity on Washington, NC is head and shoulders above the other States!! NC is making great strides but it is important that we have ALL NC Representatives signed on as co-sponsors! Here is our current co-sponsors list:

North Carolina

- Rep. Etheridge, Bob [D-NC-2] — 10/22/09
- Rep. McIntyre, Mike [D-NC-7] — 1/13/10
- Rep. Coble, Howard [R-NC-6] — 12/15/09
- Rep. Butterfield, G.K. [D-NC-1] — 2/3/10
- Rep. Myrick, Sue Wilkins [R-NC-9] — 4/13/2010
- Rep. Price, David [D-NC-4] — 4/21/10

I appreciate your efforts so much and I ask for your continued support! Diane Mayo, ASRT President, does a great job of explaining why we must keep fighting. See her article below.

How to Find Time to Make a Difference

*By Diane Mayo. R.T.(R)(CT)
Mississippi*

That's a million dollar question for me. Serving the ASRT members as president this year has kept me a little busier than usual.

I know my busy schedule is no more hectic than yours. These days it seems we have more things vying for our time than we have hours in the day. With today's current economy, work can be more demanding than ever with everyone trying to do more work with fewer full-time employees. Family life can be very demanding. If you have kids, their lives are busier than ever, making your busy life even more so. This doesn't even count for the time you need for all the committees you are on and for your church activities. What about your personal life? Here's where you laugh and ask, "What personal life?"!

Some of you may be very organized and can get everything accomplished each and every day. I use to think I was, but not anymore. I'm not sure if this is an "age thing" or that I just have more on my plate to do.

We all need to know we are making a difference in this world. Because we are in the medical profession we make a difference in our patient's lives every day. But we need to do more for our profession. This brings me to the Consistency, Accuracy, Responsibility & Excellence or CARE bill. With the upcoming health care reform law, I don't think any of us has a clue about what to expect. I know we probably all have our hopes and fears and I truly hope for the best. In the mean time, we have patients waiting for us to provide them with the best medical imaging and treatments possible, no matter what.

The CARE bill, H.R. 3652, will reduce health care costs, maximize patient safety and increase patient quality care. We need to push even harder to get our bill passed. Because of *The New York Times* articles printed this past January, the need for educated and credentialed personnel administering medical radiation and providing radiation therapy treatments has been brought to the attention of our members of Congress. This is not the first time we have taken this information to them but, it may be the first time they have opened up their ears and listened!

So now we need to take advantage of this getting out there and contacting our representatives and ask them to call CARE bill sponsor Rep. John Barrow's office to sign on as a cosponsor of H.R. 3652.

Don't just make one contact, make many and make them often. You need to decide if you want to do so weekly, biweekly or monthly until they sign on. Since our lives are extra busy these days, try doing what I'm doing as a reminder to contact my congressional members. I have put this on my computer calendar to pop up as a reminder every two weeks so I won't let time slip away from me. Put this in your date book, on your paper or computer calendar. This will help you to remember to make those contacts. By getting the CARE bill passed, we will be making a difference in our profession and our patients' lives.

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Call or e-mail your Representatives today!

Thank you for all that you do to promote our profession!
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Legislative Committee Chair, NCSRT, Inc.