Dear ASRT Member:

              Last week, ASRT asked you to reach out to your congressional representative on H.R. 8702, a bill that may affect the economic success of radiologic technologists and radiation therapists. Now ASRT would like for you to contact your U.S. Senator to voice your support for S. 5007, the companion bill to H.R. 8702. These bills will help decrease the effects of the projected 11 percent decrease in payment levels for radiology, nine percent cut for interventional radiology, eight percent cut for nuclear medicine and six percent cut to radiation therapy caused by the change to the reimbursement rate scheduled to take effect on January 1, 2021. These reimbursement cuts are catastrophic figures for the medical imaging and radiation therapy professions.

              These cuts, coupled with the fact that COVID-19 has had an extremely adverse effects on the medical imaging and radiation therapy community, will wreak havoc for the medical imaging and radiation therapy technical professional community. According to one study, more than 50 percent of radiology practices plan to terminate or furlough existing employees if the rule's cuts go into effect without any relief, while 82 percent said they expect the cuts will result in decreased imaging access for patients. And much like every other industry facing COVID-19, there is no telling if, or when, these jobs will come back. Patient access and care would further be hindered as medical imaging centers would close or reduce hours. Many would restrict services to Medicare beneficiaries treated in an outpatient setting.

              While the Federal Government continues to search for a comprehensive response to COVID-19, Congress can immediately alleviate these Medicare reimbursement cuts by enacting S. 5007. If Congress fails to act, radiology, radiation therapy, and medical imaging communities will be impacted in a very severe and real way. That is why S. 5007 and H.R. 8702 are so vitally important to ASRT and its members. By creating a two-year "hold harmless" payment that essentially would keep the reimbursement rates for Medicare services at the 2020 amount, S. 5007/H.R. 8702 allow the medical imaging and radiation therapy community to review the losses that COVID-19 has caused and regroup after the full extent of the pandemic is analyzed.

              ASRT asks that all radiologic technologists and radiation therapists [contact your U.S. senator using the ASRT Advocacy Action Center](https://urldefense.com/v3/__http:/cqrcengage.com/asrt/app/take-action?engagementId=510162&ep=AAAAC2Flc0NpcGhlcjAx_QSRkKgTW4xUUQTXOplMHRk7nAic2QmAOS2vyOHRWMfqMtOQCd35O0lXnPbOA2KTFDrzQF1byWZ_jKfxYirAQ3T_MmunW0iRKWkHaSrf88c&lp=0__;!!LSIoZA!X7XwgUi4bNtS5uk83Jzwsh5WWH6QkJq10QdR-fH6yY6eiTjTKXqSgPkkYaI2cfnUmw$) as soon as possible to voice support for S. 5007 that will help radiologic technologists and radiation therapists continue to care for our country's most vulnerable patients.

Sincerely,

ASRT Government Relations