

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

August 4, 2022

Ms. Chiquita Brooks-LaSure
Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21244

Dear Administrator Books-LaSure,

We appreciate the steps the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) took throughout the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure access to providers, including relaxing scope of practice restrictions that limit certain health care professionals' ability to provide care at the full scope of their licensure. We are writing to you as sponsors of S.2641, the Medicare Access to Radiology Care Act, which would enable our health care system to fully utilize radiology assistants (RAs) in radiology practices. We write to request details on CMS' authority to permit RAs to assist radiologists, at their full scope of practice as recognized by state law, in providing imaging and non-imaging services to people with Medicare and permit radiologists to bill Medicare for these services.

Our health care system remains strained by the COVID-19 pandemic, contributing to health care worker shortages and increased wait times for patients, especially in radiology. While RAs were recognized under Medicare in 2019 when performing imaging services under direct supervision of a radiologist as permitted by state law, radiology practices are unable to bill for these services. Allowing radiologists to submit claims to Medicare for non-diagnostic services performed by RAs they directly supervise in hospital and office settings would help alleviate this shortage and benefit patients who are forced to wait for care. RAs have extensive training and education in providing safe, high-quality care for radiology imaging and non-imaging procedures.

We appreciate the efforts of CMS to better utilize RAs and expand access to radiology care across the country. We look forward to your response on the steps CMS can take.

Sincerely,



John Boozman
United States Senator



Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator