



DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING®

February 3, 2021

The Honorable Zack Stephenson
509 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Representative Stephenson:

Thank you for the opportunity to connect on HF 57 and HF 59. As independent, community-based providers, I share your devotion to quality care and appreciate the vital role physician assistants play in our health care delivery system. With 23 advanced imaging centers in Minnesota, along with partnerships and electronic connectivity to dozens of hospitals, physicians and specialists, Center for Diagnostic Imaging (CDI) is dedicated to providing the best imaging experience possible for our patients. We provide our patients and referring clinicians with a wide variety of diagnostic services to meet their needs — including MRI, high-field open MRI, CT, mammography, ultrasound, and X-ray.

CDI thanks Representative Elkins for endeavoring to add transparency to empower consumers to take control of their choice of provider. This effort is especially important with the increasing prevalence of high-deductible plans and growing focus on cost control. However, we believe the committee should consider the specific billing practices of radiology providers, which if incorrectly reported by payers, could lead to significant confusion among patients.

As it relates to radiology, we recommend that in the development of an All Payers Claims Database, the state require that database list both the technical and professional fees and the “global” charge if technical and professional charges are combined under disclosure requirements, along with the disclaimer that patients will be charged both components. This would offer health care consumers a much more accurate picture of potential cost as it would include both the physician charge and the separate technical portions of a service. Including the usage of imaging equipment, technologists responsible for the exam, and other costs, related to the performance of the procedure. Further, this would ensure that high-quality, lower-cost providers like CDI that bill globally by combining the professional and technical charges into one bill are not inaccurately judged by consumers to be at a price disadvantage.

Please let me know your thoughts, and I very much appreciate the ability to collaborate on improving care for all Minnesotans.

Sincerely yours,

Zachary Brunnert
Director – State Legislative Policy

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