

SB330 Bill Signing Ceremony with Gov. Hassan

August 9, 2016 Concord, NH: Thank you very much Senator Carson. I am Brandy Cusson, a radiologic technologist, an advocate and the president of the NHSRT. I am blessed and humbled to be here today.

People said Licensure would never happen here in NH and to that I said...Challenge Accepted!

Senate Bill 330 is important to the health, safety and wellbeing of everyone in our great state of NH. First and foremost, the driving force of the bill has always been the patients. Now that SB330 has passed, patients will have qualified, educated and credentialed professionals taking their images. This will increase patient safety and image quality, giving health care providers the diagnostic information they need to contribute to their patients' health care plan. This will also elevate our profession by promoting higher education and fostering job growth.

The NH Society of Radiologic Technologists did our best to surround ourselves with great lawmakers. We knew this would never work if we did not have the Lions we needed to get the job done. Sen Carson was that Lion for us. She was extremely helpful and rose us up to the level of excellence we needed. Rep Thomas Sherman was another bill sponsor who was the clinical guru we had to have. He was the knowledgeable ally that we need to spread the technical word of why this bill was so important. We are forever indebted and incredibly appreciative for their support and efforts.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those that were crucial to our success on this journey. The members of the NH State Radiation Advisory Committee were the first to invite us to talk about our options and the need for licensure. They were supportive with their comments and thoughts about timing and what we needed to pull together for our bill. Their support lead us to the Department of Health and Human Services and Mr. Mike Dumond. We had a very productive meeting about licensure in NH, discussing the pros and cons. This meeting was eye opening. Mr. Dumond continued to be a friendly supportive face in the crowd, throughout our journey. At the DHHS meeting, we met Mr. John Williams. He was the first one to come out and say to us, if you want go get it. He told us who we needed and pointed us into the right direction. He kept us on track and introduced us to so many people. He enlightened our team to this new process and helped us navigate through the legislative system. From there our support grew. We had the great honor of getting a testimony of support from MR. Steve Soule and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 2320. That testimony was the start of a wonderful partnership. They elevated our message by introducing us to so many people that were instrumental in

getting our bill passed. They understood the importance of education and safety for all, patients and technologists. Without the support of the IBEW Local 2320, it would have been a much tougher, uphill battle. Steve Soule and Huck Montgomery were always available to us and truly looked out for us. They kept us informed of all hearings and all of the business that goes along with making a law. I am in awe of the support they gave us and we are eternally grateful. We honestly could not have done it without the letters of support, testimony and phone calls to lawmakers from technologists and patients across the state. Their efforts did not go unnoticed, in fact they echoed through our legislative halls. We are all very busy and to have so many reach out to lobby their state senator or state representative was crucial to our success and it did prove to be the push we needed. To those I did not specifically name...I just do not have enough time...but just two more. The amazing women I am blessed to serve with on the NHSRT board, Allyson Worthington, Alicia Cable and Delia Cater. I thank you for your patience, understanding and unyielding support. In the spirit of volunteerism and solidarity you were key to our success and it is an honor to serve by you. Lastly to our families, I love and thank you for the countless hours of support and the patience you had with the crazy schedules that ensued. You made my personal journey that much easier by understanding the need for this important piece of legislation; you are the reason why we did this.

Governor Hassan, thank you so much for being such a great leader for our state and an advocate for imaging professionals and the patients we serve in NH. We the NHSRT are appreciative for your support and are grateful to be here today. And now it's my great privilege to introduce Governor Maggie Hassan, who has been an incredible fighter for both patients, providers and technologists in New Hampshire.

Brandy Cusson RT (R), ARRT

Brandy is a technologist at Catholic Medical Center and the New Hampshire Chapter President for the Society of Radiologic Technologists