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Dear Sandra:

It has been a very busy legislative week for ASRT and our federal lobbying team. As a result, we are providing the Committee on R.T. Advocacy and R.T. in D.C. participants with the following update about what is happening on Capitol Hill. In addition, we would like to ask for your help.

As Sal explained during R.T. in D.C., the ASRT Board of Directors is as committed as ever to supporting the strategic goal of securing federal education and certification standards for individuals performing medical imaging and radiation therapy procedures.

However, after pursuing the CARE bill for 12 years as a stand-alone piece of legislation, we are trying a different approach this year. The Board has directed our lobbyists to pursue the addition of amendatory language that incorporates the CARE bill's principles into any federal bill that includes Medicare provisions. This includes bills addressing sequestration, the debt ceiling and entitlement reform. As you know, Sal also stressed that if a lawmaker introduced the CARE bill in this congressional session, we'd continue to support it.

Well, on March 13, the CARE bill was introduced as H.R.1146 by Reps. Ed Whitfield, R-Ky., John Barrow, D-Ga., and Allyson Schwartz, D-Pa.

As I mentioned above, the Board is directing our lobbyists to focus on the pursuit of amendatory language even though the CARE bill has been introduced. We believe that keeping our lobbying team focused on finding a moving legislative vehicle and asking lawmakers to amend it by including our language is the best way to achieve our end goal. Dave and Amy, our lobbyists in Washington, D.C., will target specific legislators and work closely with them to get our language inserted.

Since we're directing our lobbyists to pursue amendatory language, they will not actively seek cosponsors for the CARE bill. This is where you can help. ***We need the Committee on R.T. Advocacy, R.T. in D.C. participants and the Grass-roots Network to focus on securing cosponsors for the CARE bill.***

It is possible that the CARE bill could become an amendment and be added to an existing or future Medicare bill. A large number of cosponsors demonstrates that CARE has strong support and we can count on their votes if it is included in a larger legislative package. If and when this becomes an option, our lobbyists will let us know so we can all reach out to lawmakers and confirm their support.

In addition to the CARE bill, the Medicare Access to Radiology Care Act of 2013 was introduced as H.R. 1148 by Reps. Dave Reichert, R-Wash., Jim Matheson, D-Utah, Pete Olson, R-Texas, and Bill Pascrell, D-N.J., on March 14. This bill would allow facilities to bill Medicare for medical imaging services provided by qualified radiologist assistants under the direction of a supervising radiologist. ***We also need your help securing cosponsors for this important piece of legislation.***

We are confident that we have clearly outlined the roles and responsibilities of our lobbyists and members, but please feel free to contact us at [governmentrelations@asrt.org](mailto:governmentrelations@asrt.org) if you have any questions. We will send you more information about how to proceed with both of these initiatives in the next week. In addition, we will have updated information about the CARE and MARCA bills on the ASRT e-Advocacy site in the near future. We believe this information will help you when you ask your lawmakers to support these important pieces of legislation.

Thank you for your dedication to the pursuit of federal minimum education and certification standards for medical imaging and radiation therapy professionals. Also, thank you for your support of the radiologist assistant profession. It takes members like you to accomplish these initiatives and ensure our patients receive the best possible care!

	
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