

I am writing in opposition to bill H 6060, on removing the sunset provision for allowing physical therapists to order imaging tests.

My name is Howard Schulman, MD. I have been a general internist /adult primary care physician in RI since 1995.

While I appreciate the knowledge of physical therapists to know when an imaging test may be helpful for a patient and thereby expediting the patient's work up, I very strongly object to the provision in this bill that would **dump** the responsibility for what to do with that imaging test on the primary care physician.

As a primary care physician, it is royal in the butt to get testing on patients delivered to my inbox without knowing what is going on because I did not order the test. Not only that, I am suddenly given a legal and medical responsibility to find out what is going on, without additional support or reimbursement for my time and concern.

If the physical therapist wants to obtain an imaging test, I strongly suggest they send the patient to a provider who is able to follow up on the test.

As things are now, frankly, I can't remember getting an imaging test that a physical therapist ordered (this bill has been in effect for three years), but this could become a problem if practice behavior changes.

It is also irresponsible that this bill that says that if the patient does not have a primary care physician, that the result of the imaging does not have to be reported to anyone. So what happens if an x ray shows a suspicion of cancer. Now what?!

Additionally, there is a good chance the physical therapist may not have access to previous imaging, making the test of minimal use. This especially goes for advanced imaging like CT and MRI.

Having to clean up someone else's business is just one more instance of being "**dumped on**" that causes clinician "**burnout**". Please oppose this.

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