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8032 WEST FOREST HOME AVENUE
MILWAUKEE, WI 53219-4588
(414) 297-1140
FAX: (414) 327-8181

414 WCDY MORELAND BOULEVARD
SUITE 105
WALKESHA, WI 53188-2441
(414) 949-8300
FAX: (414) 848-6723

JERRY KLECZKA

4TH DISTRICT, WISCONSIN

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE
HEALTH SUBCOMMITTEE
RIGHTS SUBCOMMITTEE

3201 RAVENHURST BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20518-4904
(202) 225-4572
FAX: (202) 225-6135
e-mail: jerry4wi@mail.house.gov



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
August 6, 1998

Shirley Ann Jackson
Chairperson
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Chairperson Jackson:

I write regarding the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) current revision of regulations governing the medical use of radioisotopes.

I have recently been contacted by a physician in my district who specializes in cardiovascular diseases and is involved with this matter. My constituent is concerned about how these revisions may affect the use of intravascular brachytherapy. It is my understanding this is a newer development in cardiovascular disease treatment designed to prevent arteries from closing after balloon angioplasty or a similar procedure. The treatment involves the use of low level radiation and is considered experimental. As such, its use currently requires the approval of local institutional review boards and is allowed only under strict protocols.

Due the newness of this procedure, my constituent believes it is too early for the NRC to set any definite training and experience requirements for its use. In addition, the procedure is relatively safe and uses only low level radiation. Restricting its use now may seriously jeopardize patient access to this new treatment option. Clearly, a risk-based approach to revisions to the training and experience requirements would be preferable in this instance.

Realizing this is a matter under your jurisdiction and authority, I appreciate your consideration of my constituent's concern. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

JERRY KLECZKA
Member of Congress

GDK/kc

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