

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

March 14, 1983

APPROPRIATIONS
BANKING, HOUSING
AND URBAN AFFAIRS
BUDGET
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
SELECT COMMITTEE ON
SMALL BUSINESS

83 10 13 P1:15

235

Mr. Carlton Kammerer
Director
Office of Congressional Affairs
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
1717 H Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20555

TICKET NUMBER
PROPOSED RULE PR-Misc. Notice
(47 FR 3228)

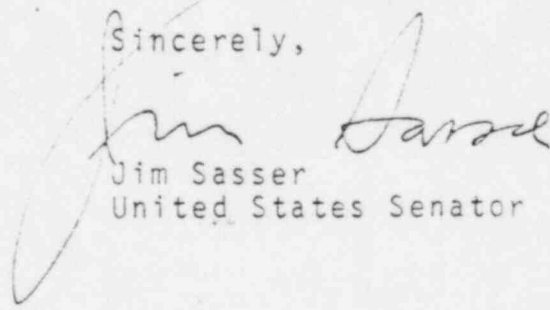
Dear Carlton:

Recently I was contacted by Dr. Laurence Grossman regarding the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's proposed regulations concerning physicians using radioisotopes in the treatment of cardiovascular disease. A copy of that communication is enclosed.

Any comments or information that you may be able to provide would be very much appreciated.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,



Jim Sasser
United States Senator

8304010537 830314
PDR REGGD
10.00B C PDR

DSM
add: Joseph Del Medico
396 SS

ST. THOMAS MEDICAL GROUP
4230 HARDING RD.-SUITE 400
ST. THOMAS MEDICAL BUILDING
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37205

Laurence A. Grossman, M.D.
Cardiovascular Disease

Alan L. Graber, M.D., P.C.
Endocrinology

James P. Gregory, M.D., P.C.
Internal Medicine

K. M. Raja, M.D.
Internal Medicine

PRACTICE LIMITED TO
INTERNAL MEDICINE

January 31, 1983

James P. Wilson, M.D., P.C.
Hypertension
Internal Medicine

Antonio M. Granda, M.D., P.C.
Gastroenterology
Internal Medicine

A. Clyde Heflin, Jr., M.D.
Pulmonary Medicine
Internal Medicine

Honorable Jim Sasser
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Jim:

First, I really want to congratulate you on that tremendous victory in the last election.

As we commented during the campaign, Robin Beard didn't have a chance. When you gave him enough rope he really hung himself.

Jim, I've been very much interested in the American College of Cardiology and the American Heart Association throughout the years. There has been an issue which has arisen concerning training requirements for physicians using radioisotopes for the diagnosis and management of heart disease. It is my understanding that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, of which you are a member, is planning to increase the training requirements of such physicians from the present 3 months to 6 months. The expanded time is primarily for clinical training in procedure performance, data interpretation and other non-isotope handling elements of nuclear cardiology studies. Physicians completing vascular training programs are already well-trained in this field.

The proposed NRC requirements have caused many concerns among cardiologists:

1. Studies of value in the management of patients with cardiovascular disease will be less readily available as fewer physicians in the specialities of cardiovascular medicine, pediatrics and surgery will seek to meet the proposed training requirements of 6 months, enabling them to secure the necessary radioisotopes.

2. The NRC is, through these proposed regulations, becoming involved in the determination of clinical competency, rather than the safe handling of such isotopes.

Honorable Jim Sasser
January 31, 1983
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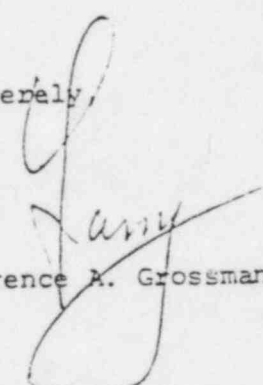
3. The potential impact of such regulation has not been studied in depth.

Dr. Suzanne B. Knoebel, the President of the American College of Cardiology, has requested that these regulations be delayed until a task force with proper representation from appropriate specialities of cardiovascular medicine, surgery and pediatrics review them and have a more appropriate recommendation.

If possible, I do want you to support the position of the American College of Cardiology in establishing such a task force.

Trust all is well.

Sincerely,



Laurence A. Grossman, M.D.

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