



# Representative Chris Tuck

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## House Majority Leader

Serving House District 23 • Dimond Estates, Foxridge, Taku, Campbell, Northwood, and Windemere

### Sponsor Statement House Bill 89 Licensing Radiologic Technicians

House Bill 89 would establish licensing requirements for radiology technicians to increase safety for patients and healthcare professionals. Approximately two-thirds of the states have laws regulating the practice of radiologic technology. However, Alaska is not among the majority who require licensing of this profession.

Radiology technicians have an important role in the healthcare field to provide services including x-rays used for checking broken bones; Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) used to find tumors, bleeding, diseases, and infections; and Computed Tomography (CT) scans used to diagnose many types of cancer.

While a number of Alaskans use these services, many may not be aware of the potential risk of over-exposure to radiation, which can lead to serious health problems, and even death. To increase safety for the patients and healthcare professionals, we need to ensure technicians are being trained properly and the equipment is checked regularly.

We have been working closely with the radiologic technicians, the Alaska Departments of Health and Social Services and Commerce, Community and Economic Development to ensure we are crafting legislation that will improve public safety standards for Alaskan through these new licensing requirements. The Department of Health and Social Services has been working with radiology technicians across the state to develop regulations that will partner with this legislation to increase safety measures, update our out-of-date regulations, and ensure changes will not adversely affect technicians in rural Alaska.

Radiation protection is about safety and the prevention of undue risk from radiation exposure. House Bill 89 will improve the safety of medical imaging procedures by establishing education and standards to ensure competency of all operators and patients. I respectfully ask for your support in the passage of House Bill 89.

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State Capitol, Room 204  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182  
Phone (907) 465-2095

Rep.Chris.Tuck@akleg.gov  
[www.RepChrisTuck.com](http://www.RepChrisTuck.com)  
Toll-Free (866) 465-2095

Interim (May-December):  
1500 W Benson Blvd, Ste 217  
Anchorage, AK 99503  
Phone (907) 269-0240