



Radiation Safety Leaders Welcome Senator Tuberville to Birmingham Facility

Discussion Centered on the Pressing Need to Protect Clinicians from Radiation Harm

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — September 14, 2026 — IMAGE SAFELY 360 (IS-360), a coalition of clinicians, safety advocates, equipment manufacturers, and professional societies, welcomed U.S. Senator Tommy Tuberville on August 31, 2026, at the Rampart Operations and Manufacturing Center in Birmingham. This visit featured informational presentations by Canon Medical, RADPAD, and Rampart — leaders in radiation safety whose technology solutions protect physicians, nurses, and technicians from the disease, injury, and death caused by long-term radiation exposure in hospital interventional laboratories.

Every day, interventional cardiologists, interventional radiologists, and catheterization teams rely on fluoroscopy-guided procedures to treat heart disease, the nation's leading cause of death. But the clinicians who perform these procedures face two documented occupational hazards: ionizing radiation exposure and musculoskeletal injury from the heavy lead garments worn to guard against radiation. Peer-reviewed research cited by IS-360 finds that interventional cardiologists face radiation exposure roughly ten times higher than diagnostic radiologists, a 35.5% higher lifetime cancer incidence, and orthopedic injury rates affecting roughly six in ten long-term practitioners.

Since 1986, federal regulations at 42 CFR § 482.26(b) have required hospitals to keep radiologic services “free from hazards for patients and personnel,” but enforcement and technology adoption have not kept pace with four decades of innovation in shielding, dose-reduction, and dosimetry technology. The Birmingham visit was part of the radiation safety community's efforts to raise awareness about the need for updated regulations that will better protect America's medical providers.

“We were honored to host Senator Tuberville at Rampart's manufacturing facility in Birmingham,” said Dr. Bob Foster, Founder and Chief Medical Officer of Rampart. “The crisis facing clinicians is real, and raising awareness about it can do so much to help our nation Care For Those Who Care For Us.”

“The harm clinicians are suffering is well-documented,” agreed Dr. David Rizik, HonorHealth's Chief Scientific Officer and Director of Structural Heart and Coronary Interventions. “As seen in the award-winning documentary, *Scattered Denial*, scatter radiation is hurting and killing the very people our society depends on for its health.”

“Nearly two-thirds of cath lab staff live with work-related pain from their lead aprons, and one in ten know a colleague with a brain tumor,” added Curtis Rooney, Vice President of Government Relations for the Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions (SCAI). “This is not an acceptable cost of practicing medicine.”

“Fortunately, the public policy tools needed to fix this problem already exist,” said Eric Berger, co-director for IMAGE SAFELY 360. “That is why our community is seeking a federal government initiative to gather the evidence it needs to protect clinicians with updated regulations that are overwhelmingly supported by voters.”

A recent poll of registered voters age 65 and older found overwhelming, bipartisan support for federal action: 95.2% said they support improving radiation protections for clinicians, and 96.8% said they would support the Trump Administration updating radiation safety requirements.

About IMAGE SAFELY 360

IMAGE SAFELY 360 (IS-360) is a coalition of healthcare professionals, safety advocates, equipment manufacturers, and professional societies committed to comprehensive protection in fluoroscopy environments. IS-360 works through evidence-based advocacy, education, and collaboration toward a future where radiation protection and ergonomic safety are standard in every interventional lab. Learn more at www.ImageSafely360.org.

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