



# HEALTH PHYSICS SOCIETY

---

*"Specialists in Radiation Safety"*

**Kevin L. Nelson, PhD, CHP**

**President**

Mayo Clinic Jacksonville

Mayo Bldg 1-185N

4500 San Pablo Road

Jacksonville, FL 32224

Telephone: (904) 953-8978

Fax: (904) 953-1010

Email: nelson.kevin2@mayo.edu

December 18, 2007

The Honorable Ron Wyden  
United States Senate  
230 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Wyden:

On behalf of the members of the Health Physics Society, I want to thank you for your leadership on the human capital crisis in the health physics profession. This leadership has most recently been demonstrated by the December 6, 2007 letter to Deputy Secretary of Energy Clay Sell. The urging by you and your colleagues for Deputy Secretary Sell to place a priority on nuclear education and to fully fund the provisions in the America COMPETES Act that provides for university-based education in the nuclear sciences, including support for students in the field of health physics, for fiscal year 2009 is very gratifying and necessary.

According to the latest labor market outlook study for health physicists performed by the Oak Ridge Associated Universities for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the number of new graduates entering the market through 2010 will only account for about 1/3 to 1/2 of the number of health physics jobs needing to be filled in the nuclear energy and nuclear weapons sector. Your leadership continues to be extremely important in ensuring that our workers and members of the public receive the professional radiation safety oversight that is needed to safely reap the benefits from the use of nuclear technologies.

With Sincere Thanks,

Kevin L. Nelson, PhD, CHP