

Testimony of Melissa Engstrom
Sunset Commission
December 9, 2016

- Melissa: Hi, thank you for having me. My name is Melissa Engstrom. I'm here today on behalf of Austin's Sports Medicine. We are a large orthopedic clinic, and an employer of both RT's and LMRT's and I would like to share with you why I'm against consolidating the RadTech license. So, in any industry, and especially in healthcare, having a tiered approach to licensing with varying levels of education and skill, is very important. The nursing practice model is a great example of how successful the tiered approach can be. It's not financially responsible for a business to pay an RT to do the job of an LMRT. So, from a business perspective it's not smart. I understand that there's a lot of administrative headaches in regulating these licenses, and I suggest fixing those headaches versus eliminating the license, and that's basically it. Thank you.
- Melissa: Can I say something super quick?
- Chairman: Yes, just be sure and state your name one more time for the microphones.
- Melissa: Melissa Engstrom. So, we employ both LMRT's and RT's, so for our LMRT's to have a full RT license, and they're taking extremity x-rays like broken bones and stuff like that, there's no need for them, and it's really hard to recruit and retain and RT to sit and take x-rays all day, but our RT's are doing MRI's and more advance stuff, so as a- representing a small business, there's definitely a need.
- Melissa: It's pretty significant. I mean we pay our LMRT's anywhere from \$15 to \$18 an hour, and our RT's can go up to \$28 an hour, so there's a pretty big difference there.