

**From:** [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)  
**To:** [Janet Wood](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)  
**Date:** Thursday, June 19, 2014 1:52:56 PM

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-----Original Message-----

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]  
Sent: Thursday, June 19, 2014 1:06 PM  
To: Sunset Advisory Commission  
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Thursday, June 19, 2014 - 13:05

Agency: DEPARTMENT STATE HEALTH SERVICES DSHS

First Name: Michael

Last Name: Benko

Title: Respiratory Care Practitioner

Organization you are affiliated with:

City: El Paso

State: Texas

Your Comments About the Staff Report, Including Recommendations Supported or Opposed:

I support the deregulation of Respiratory Therapists. I concur we do not have a significant impact on public health as our scope of practice is not clearly defined. Unlike nursing, we prove to be a relatively small and insignificant part of patient health. We are limited to providing aerosolized medications, documentation, and the occasionally arterial puncture and EKG. We do not undergo physician rounding, we provide minimal input to patient care, and have little influence on the patients we see. The vast majority of the orders I've seen for patients I deal with are inane and of no true benefit to their overall status. In many cases we are called particularly for comfort measures opposed to true clinical benefit. Last I checked a device used to humidify oxygen didn't save a life, however dopamine did.

I love my field, I have studied hard to get to be a Therapist. But the lack of a clearly defined role of the respiratory therapist has provided little in the way of benefit for us. I see an increasingly diminished role for the respiratory therapist as we cannot advance or fulfill the same roles for the patients, regardless of our background or credentialing.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: I would recommend a review and regulation of the powers a Nurse (either RN or LVN) can provide.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree