

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Janet Wood](#)
Subject: FW: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Wednesday, June 18, 2014 1:22:04 PM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Wednesday, June 18, 2014 8:51 AM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Wednesday, June 18, 2014 - 08:50

Agency: DEPARTMENT STATE HEALTH SERVICES DSHS

First Name: MELANIE

Last Name: BILLMEIER

Title: RADIOLOGY PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Organization you are affiliated with: NORTH CENTRAL TEXAS COLLEGE

City: Pilot Point

State: Texas

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

The failure to pass the Consistency, Accuracy, Responsibility and Excellence (CARE) bill, which would establish national certification standards, has positioned radiologic technologists to be regulated at the state level.

Presently, no federal oversight exists for radiologic technologists; therefore the state of Texas now serves as the last line of defense for consumers of healthcare. In reality, there are healthcare facilities that fail to operate under the guidelines of a nationally recognized accreditation programs. Despite the intentions of the commission to mitigate issues, it will only create a healthcare environment that compromises the safety of patients. Licensed radiologic technologists administer ionizing radiation, a known carcinogen, in the lowest dose possible to patients in order to create medical images and to treat cancers and other illnesses. Unlicensed personnel do not know how to administer low doses of radiation and still achieve quality images or effective treatments. Licensure for radiologic technologists ensures that patients are being treated by individuals who have met education and certification standards.

Licensure for radiologic technologists also preserves the state's right to penalize individuals who may not treat patients according to professional standards or administer radiation correctly. Without licensure, the state cannot protect its citizens from untrained individuals. The elimination of state licensure in Texas would be a step backwards in healthcare.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: Once the CARE bill is passed to insure federal mandate for licensure, the burden of enforcement will be lifted from the DSHS. We need to encourage our leaders at that level to support and pass the CARE bill to insure the safety of patients in the United States of America. Until then, if the current agency is unable to manage MRT licensure, I recommend that the responsibilities be reassigned to another agency or committee.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree