

Megan Busic

Bryan, Tx

Testimony of self

**IN OPPOSITION OF THE SUNSET ADVISORY COMMISSION'S STAFF REPORT-  
ISSUE 3- RECOMMENDATION TO DISCONTINUE MEDICAL RADIOLOGIC  
TECHNOLOGIST LICENSING.**

Before the Texas Sunset Commission Public Hearing

To: Sen. Nelson, Rep. Price, Sen. Birdwell, Rep. Burkett, Sen. Hinojosa, Rep. Dutton, Sen. Patrick, Rep. Gonzales, Sen. Schwertner, Rep. Raymond, Dr. Buckingham, Mr. Luce

A radiologic technologist (RT), also known as medical radiation technologist or as radiographer, performs imaging of the human body for diagnosis or treating medical problems. Radiologic technologists work in hospitals, clinics, and private practice. A radiologic technologist uses his/her expertise and knowledge of patient handling, physics, anatomy, physiology, pathology and radiology to assess patients, develop optimal radiologic techniques and evaluate resulting radiographic images.

I am a radiologic technologist (rad tech) and I believe we need to keep the licensure for RT's in order to keep patients safe and keep technologist well educated. The RT program I attended at Blinn College was a very difficult and strict two year program that was all year round (summer included) and required an application process, testing, pre-requisition classes (which took two years prior to the actual RT program), observation hours at a hospital, drug test, and interview before even being admitted into the program, which only a limited amount of students are selected. Once in the program, it was a full commitment of time and energy in learning about anatomy, patient care, radiation safety for patients, co-workers, and techs, patient privacy, how to use equipment, how the equipment works (how x-rays are produced, how electricity powers the machine, how to manipulate the factors on the machine to produce an image of quality while keeping the radiation dose at a minimal, etc.), patient positioning, pathology, venipuncture (needle sticking) and contrast agents (dye injected to visualize pathology), fluoroscopy (video

format of x-ray), C-Arm procedures (operating room (OR) x-ray equipment) and contamination precautions in the OR, disease and infection control, the list goes on and on. After completing the strenuous program, there is a registry you have to pass to become certified and then once certified, there are continuing education courses you have pay for and complete in order to keep your license while also maintaining a clean background record. These standards are in place to make sure the facility is ran by safe, professional, and well educated individuals. The amount and quality of education I received is what makes me a good rad tech. I take pride in my job and the hard work I dedicated into having my credentials behind my name. If anyone was able to do my job without proper education and licensure then I don't see a reason why anyone would need a license or certification to be a cop or a doctor because you can teach anyone to shoot a gun and anyone can GOOGLE symptoms and become a doctor. Our food and restaurants are regulated by strict state inspections, why shouldn't our healthcare have the same expectations? Radiation is a dangerous tool to put in just anyone's hands as it can cause damage not only to the patient, but to anyone in the surrounding areas, and any future offspring to those involved. We need licensure in the great state of Texas to prove we are professionals and know what we are doing so our patients are confident in our healthcare services. I am proud to be a Texan and to abide by our strict policies because they are what set us apart from other states.

Thirty-nine states currently recognize and have legislation on those delivering a dose of radiation to achieve optimal radiographic images or treat patients. By licensing of RTs in Texas, it ensures that all patients are receiving care in radiology from highly trained individuals that have passed national certifications, met ethical requirements, and have had the necessary training required to deliver a proper dose of radiation, a known carcinogen. As diagnostic imaging increases due to the increasing age of the population, more complex studies are being used to diagnose illness; state licensure of radiologic technologists should remain to protect the health and safety of Texas citizens

Licensure for radiologic technologists preserves the state's right to provide disciplinary action for 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.

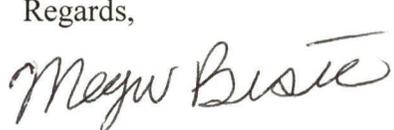
Licensed radiologic technologists provide radiologists and other healthcare providers with technically consistent, correctly positioned images, which improve the consistency and

accuracy of the providers' diagnosis. Unlicensed personnel have the potential to provide inconsistent or improperly positioned images, reducing the diagnostic effectiveness of exams and increasing the need for repeat imaging procedures. Repeat imaging increases radiation exposure and medical costs.

Licensed radiologic technologists adapt procedures and technical factors to each individual patient's needs. The radiologic technologists' training allows for technologists to evaluate the patient's medical status, patient's history, underlying pathologic processes, and physical factors to create a quality diagnostic image or therapy that is truly individualized for that patient.

It is imperative that we keep Texas strong and state regulated to make sure we keep our standards high, our citizens safe, and our healthcare professionals competent.

Regards,

 R.T.(R)(ARRT)

Megan Busic R.T. (R)(ARRT)