

From: [Janet Wood](#)
To: [Janet Wood](#)
Subject: FW: Please Review The Sunset Commission; Respiratory Therapist
Date: Sunday, June 15, 2014 2:57:09 PM

Begin forwarded message:

Date: June 14, 2014 at 12:19:38 PM CDT

Subject: Please Review The Sunset Commission; Respiratory Therapist

June 14th, 2014

Dear Commission Director Levine :

My name is Veronica Cid; I am a loyal and faithful Registered Respiratory Therapist. I honorably pay my dues to this state to maintain my credentials up-to-date and continue my education to be a successful and knowledgeable Respiratory Therapist. I maintain in the know of new and proactive therapies and strategies to help our sickly patients and educate those who walk through our Emergency Room doors to help prevent admissions in the future.

I am writing you in response to the bill you are attempting to pass. The panel says the programs “distract DSHS from its primary public health responsibilities and would be a better placed at the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation.” This recommendation “would remove from state law the title acts and enabling statutes for the 19 programs as well as any references to the licensure, certification, or registration of any of the professions or practices.” This would affect my career, my family, my home, my colleges, my fellow healthcare providers, and most importantly the people we are here to save, serve and care for.

I don't know if you or anyone you have ever known has ever been affected by something in life that would require you to be in a life or death health situation. If you have ever been put in the position where you were struggling to breath. If you have ever known someone whose child is fighting for a chance at life, fighting for a breath that will give them another day. If you have you'd recognize the importance of having a trained and reputable person taking care of your loved one. If you haven't, you are very fortunate.

I will speak on behalf of the Respiratory Department at St. David Medical Center, on our day-to-day work we touch the lives of helpless individuals who come to our hospital requiring lifesaving therapies and medications. We have all sacrificed years of schooling to make us trained and specialized in the care of the numerous respiratory diseases and crisis. We are the specialists who initiate,

monitor and maintain mechanically ventilated patients. We assist in transportation of these mechanically ventilated patients via ground and by air. We are the only ones who administer and monitor respiratory medication and therapies, providing feedback to our Doctors and Nurses on the progression of each of our patients. We are at the head of every cardiac arrest code and supplying the patient with the oxygen and chest compressions they need to sustain life. We perform invasive and noninvasive diagnostic testing and monitoring. We clean, calibrate and maintain equipment that performs these lifesaving testings' and therapies. We maintain up-to-date with all necessary licensing to remain working in the hospital setting. We are a critical member to the hospital team, we are the ones Doctors, Nurses and Techs come to for questioning and concerns.

To have this bill pass, you will be de-licensing the very people who are working to help and save the lives of others. This will put thousands out of jobs and/or make our pay unmanageable to our home structure. We are not millionaires by any means, and most of us work in this profession more because of the love and passion we have for it than the pay. To de-license us would basically wipe out this profession.

Respiratory therapy licensure was enacted by the majority of jurisdictions because of the critical nature of the duties performed by respiratory therapists. These educated clinical health practitioners assist in resuscitations, manage mechanical ventilators to support respiratory failure, implement respiratory care protocols, and perform diagnostic procedures. Many of our duties are performed in critical care units, and they are routinely involved in life or death situations. With a focus on patient safety, licensure is clearly required to continually assure competence of respiratory therapists. A voluntary credentialing system alone, notwithstanding the contribution of outstanding voluntary competency testing and credentialing examination programs, **is not sufficient** to continually assure patient safety when respiratory services are required.

The voluntary credentialing process is neither designed nor intended to provide all the functions inherent in state licensure. The NBRC has processes, abilities, resources and mission to provide the initial examination and credentialing and renewal of credentials. Functions of assuring the moral, ethical, competence and safety of respiratory therapists caring for patients is the responsibility of state licensure processes. Candidates for NBRC voluntary examinations are not screened for criminal or other background issues that may affect their ability to provide safe and competent respiratory therapy to patients when they apply and are awarded NBRC credentials.

Further, the NBRC does not have the authority or ability to carry out the functions of receiving and investigating complaints about the practice of a respiratory therapist. The NBRC is not able to suspend or revoke the ability of an individual to

practice the profession of respiratory therapy for any of the infractions that are within the jurisdiction of state regulatory agencies. The NBRC voluntary credentialing process does not possess the ability to assure the ongoing health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of any state. The NBRC has no investigative or subpoena authority.

Respiratory Therapists handle a wide spectrum of people and ages. From the premature babies to the dying elders, we work in hospitals, outpatient facilities, rehabilitation centers, long-term care facilities, in the air and in hospice. To de-license us would affect every single generation and the outcome of our long standing battle against pulmonary diseases and disabilities.

Respectfully Yours,

Veronica Cid

Registered and Licensed in the state of Texas Respirator Therapist