

6/19/14

Danny D Davis Jr.

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On behalf of self

Dear Texas Sunset Commission,

I am a Computed Tomography technologist and a registered radiologic technologist writing in OPPOSITION of the Sunset Advisory Commission's Staff Report- Issue 3- recommendation to discontinue medical radiologic technologist licensing.

I work with Texas children on a daily basis. As a freestanding pediatric facility in the heart of Texas we see the worst human tragedies possible (sick and hurt children). As a licensed CT Tech it is my job as a frontline employee to collaborate with physicians to ensure our Texas children get safe, timely, correct care. We are relied upon to make on the spot decisions that could change the quality of care for our children. Working in an environment where physicians are training residents leaves ample room for mistakes in ordering. Although there is physician oversight it is our job to ensure the correct procedures are going to give the physicians the diagnostic information they can use to properly diagnose our children. I would dare to say that if left to the devices of those who do not care enough to have oversight and responsibility, there would be no way to censure behaviors that are contrary to the strictest procedures in patient care. Imagine your own child in a life or death situation. In those few moments when decisions are being made that could mean the difference in having had the last conversation with your child and having a future relationship with your child, who do you prefer behind the controls? Would you want that person to be a licensed professional with more at stake than losing a job for a wrong decision or an unlicensed person with no oversight and very little in the way of retribution should things go wrong pursuant to a decision made in the heat of the moment. When the chips are down I would only trust the care of my children to the best of the best. For the sake of Texas children (our children, yours and mine) let's stop the discussion of whether or not Medical Radiologic Technologists should continue to be licensed. For the sake of a profession that is often on the frontlines of critical care for Texas children and adults, let's consider for a moment who we want making decisions. Would you consider putting teen drivers on the road with no driver's license? I'd dare say not. The licensing process isn't about a piece of paper that authorizes us to give an amount of radiation to a child. The licensing process is about accountability. We demand accountability for physicians who write prescriptions, pharmacists who dispense drugs and many other professions in the medical and non-medical communities. Food handlers are licensed by the State of Texas. I would hate to think that you consider food handlers in more of a position to do harm than radiologic technologists. The safety considerations that must be considered when administering doses of radiation cannot be taken lightly. Knowing and trusting the person treating Texas children is licensed and registered by

governing bodies is imperative to providing care to Texas children. I sincerely hope you reconsider the ramifications of your proposal.

It is imperative that the State of Texas continue the licensing and regulation of radiologic technologist.

- Licensure for radiologic technologists ensures that patients are being treated by individuals who have met education and certification standards.
- Licensed radiologic technologists administer ionizing radiation, a known carcinogen, in the lowest dose possible to patients to create medical images and to treat cancers and other illnesses. Unlicensed personnel do not have formalized education to administer low doses of radiation and still achieve quality images or effective treatments.
- 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 increase the potential for 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.

Regards,

Danny D Davis Jr. M.S.R.T. (R)(CT)