

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Janet Wood](#)
Subject: FW: To Dr. Dawn Buckingham
Date: Friday, June 27, 2014 8:58:27 AM

From: Phil Jones
Sent: Friday, June 27, 2014 8:50 AM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: To Dr. Dawn Buckingham

Dr Buckingham, please forgive my error in the previous e-mail i sent to you concerning the spelling of your name. Here is the correct copy:

6-27-14

**Dawn Buckingham, MD
Sunset Advisory Commission
Austin, Texas**

Dear Dr Buckingham:

I am a Pulmonologist practicing medicine in Tyler, Texas with Pulmonary Specialists of Tyler (PSOT). I am also the Medical Director of the Pulmonary Department at East Texas Medical Center. ETMC is a 350 bed level one trauma center which treats critically ill medical and trauma patients. I am writing to you today to voice my concern about the possibility of deregulating Respiratory Care Practitioners (RCPs).

In our practice, we rely on Respiratory Therapists to assess and treat our patients, and especially the ones who are critically ill. RCPs use protocols to carry out an array of duties, including ventilator management of our ARDS patients. RCPs manage these types of patients via protocol on oscillator ventilators and we are pleased with the outcomes. As you know, these patients often times are the young and otherwise healthy individuals who contract the Flu which progresses to ARDS.

I cannot emphasize enough how important state licensure is for these professionals. They obtain either an associates or bachelors degree in an accredited Respiratory Care program and then pass a national registry or certificate exam. The national credentialing body, the NBRC, does not regulate the profession. The RCPs are regulated by the DSHS.

The Pulmonologists in my group strongly believe that deregulation of these particular professionals would cause harm to our patients and greatly increase our liability. Being a

Physician, you understand the complexity of the duties performed by RCPs and that nurses are NOT trained to oversee their jobs.

Thank you, Dr. Buckingham, for your attention to this matter and please feel free to call myself or one of my associates at Pulmonary Specialists of Tyler (PSOT) if we can help. We believe Physicians must stand up for patient safety and need your help.

Sincerely:

**Luis Destarac, MD
Pulmonary Specialists of Tyler
Tyler, Texas**