

**From:** [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)  
**To:** [Janet Wood](#); [Brittany Roberson](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)  
**Date:** Friday, June 13, 2014 8:27:29 AM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]  
Sent: Friday, June 13, 2014 6:14 AM  
To: Sunset Advisory Commission  
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Friday, June 13, 2014 - 06:13

Agency: DEPARTMENT STATE HEALTH SERVICES DSHS

First Name: Sharon

Last Name: eickenhorst

Title: Respiratory Care Practitioner

Organization you are affiliated with:

City: Cameron

State: Texas

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

Dear Sunset Advisory Commission Members:

My name is Sharon Eickenhorst; I have had the privilege to enter into the distinguished healthcare field of Respiratory Care as a Respiratory Care Practitioner in your district. My professional colleagues & I humbly request your immediate assistance to appose the Texas Sunset Advisory Committees futile recommendation in the May 2014 Sunset Advisory Commission Staff Report to discontinue Respiratory Care Practitioner licensing in our great state of Texas (Page 4, Issue 3, Pages 106-108, Appendix E).

I would like to share with you one of my most proud moments carried with me in this life, the day I walk across the stage at commencement ceremony from McLennan Community College, in Waco, Texas, in front of my children and peers, to obtain my education, and became a healthcare professional as a licensed Respiratory Care Practitioner. Together, my three children and I have had to over come many obstacles, as well as financial hardships so that I could acquire my education and stand on my own two feet financially.

Taking away my Respiratory Care Practitioners license is ERRONEOUS and undeserved. The endless hours I spent studying, two years of specialized hands on training I experienced within the central Texas hospitals and polishing my skills each clinical day will soon be for nothing if you do not oppose this recommendation to deregulate respiratory care practitioners. The comprehension of each mandatory level of critical care each student had to acquire in order to gain RCP license as well as time away from our children and families is not something that should go overlooked. Every RCP has put in their time, made sacrifices and have rightfully earned the title of Respiratory Care Practitioner.

How can the Sunset Advisory Committee justify taking away our Respiratory license?

A license; earned through hard work, dedication to our healthcare field, and loyalty to our patients allows us to be seen as professionals in the world of healthcare. There are numerous other reasons to not deregulate Respiratory Care Practitioners. While this would have major ramifications in my personal life, as I have stated, it would also impose risks to public health and safety as well. Respiratory Care Practitioners are direct patient care providers in a profession where extensive specialized skills and training are required and a significant potential for risk of harm to the public exists from lack of regulating who could potentially be providing this care in the future. This lack of a formal state licensure process in Texas would mean that RCP's whom are incompetent, engaged in criminal activity, or have lost their license in another state can work in Texas without review or screening.

I respectfully request your attention, to alleviate this matter. Facilitate the acknowledgment that it is essential for the integrity for our healthcare field that each Respiratory Care Practitioner uphold, and maintain a license in the state of Texas. My recommendation is not to deregulate Respiratory Care Practitioners, but to either remain with the DSHS or to transfer the Respiratory Care Practitioner Program to the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation.

Sincerely,

Sharon Eickenhorst, CRT, RCP

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: My recommendation is not to deregulate Respiratory Care Practitioners, but to either remain with the DSHS or to transfer the Respiratory Care Practitioner Program to the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree