

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Janet Wood](#)
Subject: FW: Sunset Advisory Commission's recommendatopm to Texas Legislature--Issue 3
Date: Tuesday, June 17, 2014 1:18:15 PM

From: Pam Ferguson
Sent: Tuesday, June 17, 2014 9:09 AM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Sunset Advisory Commission's recommendatopm to Texas Legislature--Issue 3

Pamela
Ferguson
6/17/2014

Dallas, Texas

On behalf of myself-
Dear Texas Sunset Commission,

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

I am a radiology technologist working in a big for profit hospital in Dallas, Texas. I not only take x-rays of patients, I am a radiology adviser and consultant for the surgeons that I work with, these doctors have to have answers as they are operating and cannot wait for a radiologist to read their films. I work in a surgical area so the patients are under anesthesia. I am the patient's advocate while they cannot speak for themselves, as such, I have to be aware of the amount of radiation the

patient is receiving. The techs, nurses, and physicians in the rooms need to be made aware of radiation safety measures as well, so the radiologic technologist is the person that advocates radiation safety for all in these situations. If I had not went through training, and testing, I would be a poor advocate for everyone involved. It is imperative that the State of Texas continue the licensing and regulation of radiologic technologists.

- 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

with technically consistent correctly positioned images, which improve the consistency and accuracy of the radiologists' diagnoses. Unlicensed personnel 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 pathological processes, and physical factors to create a quality diagnostic image or therapy that is truly individualized for that patient. Unlicensed personnel do not have the educational background to critically appraise the individual patient's situation and adapt to the needs of the patient.

Regards,

Pamela Ferguson, B.S.; R.T.(R)