

**From:** [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)  
**To:** [Janet Wood](#)  
**Subject:** FW: comments on medical physicist licensure  
**Date:** Friday, June 27, 2014 8:58:41 AM

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

From:  
Sent: Friday, June 27, 2014 8:45 AM  
To: Sunset Advisory Commission  
Subject: comments on medical physicist licensure

Good Morning Commission Members

I recently sent this email to Senator Nelson and would like to submit it for your review.

Good Morning Senator Nelson

I am a resident of Frisco and I would like to offer an opinion about the sunset commissions recommendations. I am currently a board certified, licensed medical physicist that is employed by Baylor Health Care System. I also sit on the board of licensure of medical physicists so I think I have a very valid perspective. I personally believe that licensure in Texas is unduly restrictive on our profession. Currently there are about 45 states in the country that do not have licensure requirements. Those states have medical physicists that perform the same duties that I do. I would challenge anyone to say that the public of those 45 states are in jeopardy of being harmed by the actions of the medical physicists or radiologic technologists for that matter.

Times are changing, health care is very expensive. The fact that medical physicists are licensed in Texas restricts some very qualified people from practicing in our state due to the fact that they may not be board certified. Those physicists may have been practicing the profession for many years but for various reasons may have not gotten board certified. As a result those people can NEVER become fully licensed in the state of Texas. The body that currently administers board certification has gotten very restrictive of the past few years, only allowing a person that has gone through an approved residency program to sit for the board exam. That is all well and good except that there are many, many more medical physics graduates each year than there are residency positions. As a result, currently most residency positions are filled by PhD graduates. Let me be perfectly clear. You do not need a PhD to test x-ray equipment!

This trend will most certainly lead to an increase in salary for medical physicists thereby increasing cost for hospitals.

Additionally, the FDA implemented the Mammography Quality Standards Act back in the 90's.

In that law there are requirements for medical physicists (as well as radiologist technologists, and radiologists). This law is very prescriptive in what qualifications you must possess to test mammography equipment. It would be very simple for the office of radiation control to put into rule minimum requirements to practice our profession.

I believe that the outcry from physicist, the national physics society, as well as the radiologist technologist society is VERY self serving. Licensure does not necessarily protect the welfare of the people of Texas but it does certainly limit competition and increase salaries.

I personally don't have a preference as to whether we continue with licensure or not but I will tell you that I have worked at Baylor for almost 16 years and we have had to hire new physicists on many, many occasions. In this process we have had to disqualify a large number of perfectly competent individuals for the main reason that they are not board certified and therefore cannot get licensed in the state of Texas.

The board has recently been reviewing a case of a medical physicist who is a military veteran. This person has practiced a medical physicist for many years and is I am sure, a well qualified individual but is NOT board certified therefore cannot become license in our state. It breaks my heart to know that we cannot help out this veteran who

has served our country so well.

Senator Nelson, I hope that you will take into consideration my comments before discounting the recommendations of the sunset commission.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully

Valerie Foreman, MS, DABR

Licensed Medical Physicist

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