

JUN 19 2014

June 16, 2014

State Representative Four Price
Vice Chair, The Sunset Advisory Commission of Texas
P.O. Box 13066
Austin, TX. 78711

Representative Price,

As a very concerned citizen and parent of a Respiratory Care Practitioner, I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposal by the Sunset Advisory Commission to discontinue the Respiratory Care Practitioners program currently registered by the Department of State Health Services. Such an action to discontinue the licensing of RCP's would have tremendous consequences for both Texas RCP's and the many patients they treat throughout the state who have been diagnosed with chronic lung disorders.

I am very concerned that this commission has not studied at length what value a Respiratory Therapist provides for their patients. And I cannot stress enough that this commission that is making health care decisions would try to really educate themselves about what each profession offers before making important decisions that impact healthcare and patient safety. I sure hope that I am never hospitalized in the critical care of a Texas hospital on a ventilator. Nurses are great at what they do and they are far too overworked to begin learning a 2nd career as a Respiratory Therapist. Nurses don't learn mechanical ventilation, intubation, tracheostomy care or how to manage patients in respiratory distress with impending respiratory failure. Having a nurse set up ventilators or Bipap machines would be very dangerous. One wrongful death lawsuit could wipe out any savings the hospital might save by eliminating licensed Respiratory Therapists.

Licensing not only ensures practitioners in some fields are qualified, but also prevents those not properly trained or without the necessary skill sets from being hired into a position and potentially causing harm to the patient. Let the government get rid of Licensed Respiratory Therapists and we will see a tremendous decline in quality of patient care.

I urge you to maintain mandatory respiratory care practitioner state licensing and transfer mandatory state respiratory care practitioner licensure to the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation.

Sincerely,



Janis Fowler

Inez, TX.