

**From:** [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)  
**To:** [Janet Wood](#)  
**Subject:** FW: MRT licensing in Texas  
**Date:** Monday, June 23, 2014 3:10:07 PM

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**From:** Sherry Leinen  
**Sent:** Monday, June 23, 2014 2:54 PM  
**To:** Sunset Advisory Commission  
**Subject:** MRT licensing in Texas

Sherry Leinen

Tomball, Texas

Dear Texas Sunset Commission:

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

I have practiced Nuclear Medicine in Texas for over 45 years. When I first started in Nuclear Medicine there was no licensure or credentialing in the United States. Licensure and credentialing are essential in Texas. I have been an operations manager for the Western United States for a mobile PET/CT provider. I have had mobile units in states that do not have licensing requirements. Although I would not use any technologist that was not licensed and credentialed, many outpatient clinics and physician offices did use unskilled individuals to operate radiation producing equipment and to inject radioactive materials. This is not only detrimental to the patient; it also exposes the operator to a possible over exposure. Licensed and credentialed technologists are taught to ensure low radiation doses to the patient, general public and occupational workers. Unscrupulous physicians and clinic operators may try to keep costs low by using poorly trained individuals thus exposing their patients to unnecessary radiation.

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 educational and certification standards.

Licensed radiologic technologists administer ionizing radiation, a known carcinogen, to patients in the lowest doses possible 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.

Licensed radiologic technologists provide radiologists with technically consistent and correctly positioned images, which improve the accuracy of the radiologist's diagnosis. 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 technologist's training allows for technologists to evaluate the patient's medical status, history, underlying pathologic processes, and physical factors to create a quality diagnostic image or therapy that is truly individualized for each 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. It also brings additional revenue to the State.

Best regards,

Sherry Leinen, BSRS, CNMT, PET, ARRT(N)