

**From:** [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)  
**To:** [Janet Wood](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)  
**Date:** Monday, June 23, 2014 8:16:26 AM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]  
Sent: Sunday, June 22, 2014 11:17 AM  
To: Sunset Advisory Commission  
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Sunday, June 22, 2014 - 11:16

Agency: DEPARTMENT STATE HEALTH SERVICES DSHS

First Name: carla

Last Name: leveling

Title: Registered Respiratory Therapist

Organization you are affiliated with: Abilene Regional Medical Center

City: Abilene

State: Texas

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

I am against the recommendation to deregulate RCPs, because in order to insure patient safety, you need education not just a superficial training.

There are concepts that we have to know in order to make changes on ventilators. It's not just turning knobs. We are educated to handle emergency situations very quickly, if not it could mean death for a patient.

For example, I was working in a neuroscience unit on a head injury patient who was very unstable with a high PEEP of 18. I was called to the room STAT and the doctors and the nurses were in the room puzzled, not knowing what was going on. The ventilator was alarming and sats were quickly dropping, HR in the 190s. After attempting to suction and pass the catheter, I looked at the return volumes on the ventilator and listened to the patient's breath sounds.

In a matter of seconds I had to make the decision on whether it was a pneumothorax or an ETT occlusion. Thanks to the education that I received in school I was able to determine the problem and it was the ETT tube that was occluded. I quickly extubated the patient against everyone's judgement and started bagging the patient. ETT tube was completely occluded and if I wouldn't have made this decision based on my education and evaluation of the patient, the patient would have died.

Decisions like this cannot be made by someone who is not educated in the field.

Therefore, I oppose this change. We need to look at public safety as a priority.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: The focus needs to be on the safety of the patient. Not long ago, they were looking at having a Bachelor's degree as a requirement for Respiratory, because of the extensive knowledge that you are required to have in this field.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree