

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Janet Wood](#)
Subject: FW: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Wednesday, June 18, 2014 4:40:27 PM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Wednesday, June 18, 2014 2:34 PM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Wednesday, June 18, 2014 - 14:33

Agency: DEPARTMENT STATE HEALTH SERVICES DSHS

First Name: MAGDA

Last Name: MARTIR

Title: MEDICAL PHYSICIST AND RADIATION SAFETY OFFICER

Organization you are affiliated with: MEMORIAL HERMANN HEALTH SYSTEM

City: HOUSTON

State: Texas

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

As someone who works in therapeutic medical physics and teaches radiation safety and protection, I am alarmed and disappointed with the Sunset Advisory Commission's recommendation to rescind licensure requirements for medical physicists and radiologic technologists. I strongly oppose this recommendation.

Licensure is a powerful tool to require responsible and thoughtful use of radiation in the medical environment. Licensure sets minimum standards in order to protect patients, staff, and the general public from the harmful effects of radiation. In the right hands the medical use of radiation results in high cure rates, minimal side effects, improved quality of life, and compassionate palliation of fatal diseases. Given the extraordinary level of complexity in the current radiation technologies, this requires a very high and sustained level of education and experience.

Licensed medical physicists are often the technical experts in diagnostic and therapeutic medical radiation environments. They are the individuals that ensure that all federal and state regulations are followed. They are the individuals that do all the quality assurance and oversee crucial commissioning and testing of radiation producing machines and related software. They are the individuals that calibrate the radiation producing machines - actually determine how much radiation the machine needs to produce to deliver a prescribed dose. A calibration error will effect every single individual treated on that machine. Clearly this job needs to be filled by a licensed individual versus the lowest bidder.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: Please maintain licensing standards for medical physicists and radiologic technologists in Texas.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree