

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Janet Wood](#)
Subject: FW: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Friday, June 13, 2014 1:15:27 PM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Friday, June 13, 2014 11:06 AM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Friday, June 13, 2014 - 11:06

Agency: DEPARTMENT STATE HEALTH SERVICES DSHS

First Name: Xiaoning

Last Name: Pan

Title: Assistant Professor

Organization you are affiliated with: The University of Texas Health Science Center at Tyler

City: Tyler

State: Texas

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

I strongly disagree with the proposal to deregulate health professions described in page 49:

1. Without licensure, the state cannot protect its citizens from individuals who may not meet education and certification standards. Licensure for health professions ensures that patients are being treated by individuals who have met education and certification standards.
2. Licensure for health professions preserves the state's right to penalize individuals who may not treat patients according to professional standards.
3. Because "Some programs merely prohibit the use of the title (page 49)", it would be more meaningful focusing on how to improve this situation, instead of eliminating these professions.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: I would like to suggest more focus on how to improve "Some programs merely prohibit the use of the title (page 49)".

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Janet Wood](#)
Subject: FW: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Friday, June 20, 2014 1:04:09 PM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Friday, June 20, 2014 9:52 AM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Friday, June 20, 2014 - 09:51

Agency: DEPARTMENT STATE HEALTH SERVICES DSHS

First Name: Xiaoning

Last Name: Pan

Title: Assistant Professor

Organization you are affiliated with: The University of Texas Health Science Center at Tyler

City: Tyler

State: Texas

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

Dear Sunset review committee:

(Note: The following is from The American Association of Physicists in Medicine (AAPM). I agree with the comments suggested by AAPM. –Xiaoning Pan, license number MP10559)

[I am contacting you as a licensed medical physicist concerning the Sunset Staff Review published in May 2014. I am concerned that the information in the report does not accurately reflect the current environment of professional regulations and health care in Texas or the importance of licensure in protecting Texans from unnecessary exposure to radiation.

The report suggests that the programs are unnecessary because; (1) deregulation would have little impact on health and safety, (2) they cover professionals that operate in a highly regulated environment, (3) they have ‘regulation’ provided by another body or through private sector accreditation, and (4) they generate little regulatory activity.

I would like to address each of the areas to provide you with additional information that is not reflected in the report.

1. The report states “deregulation would have little impact on health and safety.” Texas is very fortunate to be home to some of the most advanced imaging and treatment facilities in the world. In order for equipment used in these facilities and elsewhere in Texas to operate safely, highly trained individuals are required to assure the safe use of the equipment. Professional regulations are essential. Worldwide there have been some very serious injuries associated with radiation emitting equipment.

Currently, licensed medical physicists are required to provide annual performance evaluations on the equipment to assure that they meet regulatory standards. Without such requirements these annual quality assurance measures might not be performed or be performed by others with less or no qualifications. Licensure in Texas requires Board certification, which assures the public that a minimum qualification has been met. Without licensure, that minimum level of knowledge would no longer be a requirement, and negative future consequences could likely result. Also, with growing public concern about radiation risk, removing safeguards already in place in Texas (through licensure) seems very unwise.

2. The report states the medical physicist licensure program is a “profession that operates in a highly regulated environment.” It is true that exposure to radiation in medical applications is regulated for adherence to equipment specification. It is not true that those who practice in radiation imaging, nuclear medicine or therapy are regulated by any other government entity except for those who provide services to support the Mammography Quality Standards Act (MQSA). Less than professional conduct has been a contributor to numerous medical errors. In 2009, reports of medical errors in the Veteran Administration highlighted lack of professional responsibility and accountability. Professional licenses hold individuals accountable in providing services that meet regulatory compliance. When the services do not meet this requirement, professional licensure standards can be used for enforcement against the professional licensee. Without a medical physicist license this would not be possible.

3. The third item in the report to be addressed is the view that medical physicists “have ‘regulation’ provided by another body or through private sector accreditation.” I am not aware of any duplication of professional accountability for medical physicists in another regulatory body or accreditation that meets the equivalent standards for a licensed professional with the exception of the MQSA requirements. In fact accreditation does not cover all the types of medical imaging services or radiation therapy. For some imaging and radiation therapy accreditation is voluntary and does not require the use of board certified medical physicists with specific areas of expertise. Without licensure there would be no requirement to use board certified physicists. It is only through licensure that all medical physicists practicing in Texas must meet continuing education requirements as some board certified individuals are not required to meet continuing education requirements.

4. The last rationale for sunset, medical physicists “generate little regulatory activity.” is confusing. Do we only regulate those professions that have activity? Is it possible that because of regulations, medical physicists are meeting the requirement of the regulations, improving health care in Texas, and do not require extensive support from agency staff? The Texas licensure law was written and enforced to protect citizens from individuals with little or no knowledge of radiation equipment from providing services that could in fact harm them. Licensed medical physicists must meet minimum educational and board certification requirements to obtain a license.

To maintain their Texas license, medical physicists must meet continuing education requirements each renewal cycle (which is quite consistent with other medical professionals).

Medical physicists are essential for patient safety in diagnostic imaging (radiology), nuclear medicine and radiation therapy. Professional licensure helps to assure that well qualified individuals provide these services. I would be glad to discuss with you the importance of medical physicist licensure and why it should not be considered for sunset.]

Sincerely

Xiaoning Pan

Xiaoning Pan, Ph.D.

License number MP10559

Assistant Professor, Department of Radiation Oncology The University of Texas Health Science Center at Tyler

Tyler, TX

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: Medical physicist licensure should not be considered for sunset

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree