

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Janet Wood](#); [Brittany Roberson](#)
Subject: FW: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Wednesday, June 11, 2014 11:52:38 AM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Wednesday, June 11, 2014 11:43 AM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Wednesday, June 11, 2014 - 11:43

Agency: DEPARTMENT STATE HEALTH SERVICES DSHS

First Name: Brian

Last Name: Rich

Title:

Organization you are affiliated with:

City: Conroe

State: Texas

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

Dear Texas Sunset Commission,

I am a radiologic technologist, tutor for radiologic technology for Lone Star College and current Vice President of the Texas Society of Radiologic Technologists. I am writing in PROFOUND OPPOSITION on behalf of only myself, not representing any other affiliation, of the Sunset Advisory Commission's Staff Report- Issue 3 recommendation to discontinue medical radiologic technologists licensing.

I am more than a "button pusher".....I am a properly educated technologist who knows and understands the importance and danger of dealing with ionizing radiation. I am educated to know how to deliver the least amount of radiation to achieve a quality image for proper diagnosis without treating you, your family or anyone else, as a guinea pig trying until I get the right image using the right dose.

I am more than a "button pusher".....I am an educated technologist who knows how much kVp and mAs to use to deliver the least amount of radiation to achieve the best image without using too much kVp and causing "scatter" or fog on the image rendering it below par for diagnosis purposes. I know how much mAs to use to render a quality image without endangering the patient with too much radiation.

I am more than a "button pusher".....I am educated to know proper positioning to achieve the best view of the anatomy for the best diagnosis.

I am more than a "button pusher".....I am educated to know when to increase kVp to accommodate pathologies that require more energy to push the photons through increased mass at the right amount and when to decrease it when there is a decrease in mass due to a pathology.

I am more than a "button pusher".....I am educated to know what radiation does to a body and how it interacts

with cells and how to minimize damage to cells.

I am more than a “button pusher”.....I am an educated patient care advocate. I know how to treat patients with kindness and compassion. I know how to move a patient, who is in a great deal of pain, the least amount and still obtain quality images for their healing.

I am more than a “button pusher”.....I am an educate technologist that knows proper physics and angles to move the patient or equipment in the room around to achieve diagnostic images to serve their needs.

I am more than a “button pusher”.....I am an educated technologist who knows how to move and set a surgical c-arm in critical procedures to assist the surgeon and patient the best way possible.

I am more than a “button pusher”.....I am a qualified educated technologist because I care about people and want to be the best for my patients but also I AM EDUCATED because I must be in order to be licensed in this state to do such a highly dangerous job!

My director of Diagnostic Imaging at CHI St. Luke’s The Woodlands, Buell Joiner, remembers the day before licensure when he could get anyone to “run” the equipment but knew nothing about the above mentioned. He literally brought in people with no education. That is the definition of a “button pusher”.

It is imperative that the State of Texas continue the licensing and regulation of radiologic technologist.

- Licensure for radiologic technologists ensures that patients are being treated by individuals who have met education and certification standards.
- Licensed radiologic technologists administer ionizing radiation, a known carcinogen, in the lowest dose possible to patients 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.
- Licensure for radiologic technologists preserves the state’s right to provide disciplinary action for individuals who may not treat patients according to professional standards or administer radiation correctly.
Without licensure, the state cannot protect its citizens from untrained individuals.
- Licensed radiologic technologists provide radiologists with technically consistent, correctly positioned images, which improve the consistency and accuracy of the radiologists' 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 technologists' training allows for technologists to evaluate the patient's medical status, patient's history, underlying pathologic processes, and physical factors to create a quality diagnostic image or therapy that is truly individualized for that 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.

Regards,

Brian Rich AAS, RT(R), ARRT, VP of TSRT

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: To keep licensure a requirement and a minimum education requirement

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree