

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: Friday, June 06, 2014 2:42:55 PM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Friday, June 06, 2014 12:54 PM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Friday, June 6, 2014 - 12:54

Agency: DEPARTMENT STATE HEALTH SERVICES DSHS

First Name: Jennifer

Last Name: Simpson

Title: Respiratory Care Manager

Organization you are affiliated with: Seton Healthcare Family

City: Austin

State: Texas

Your Comments About the Staff Report, Including Recommendations Supported or Opposed: I am concerned as a manager of respiratory care that this decision will greatly impact the quality and experience of respiratory care in our facilities here in Texas. In the short time since this report was published, there have been a multitude of experienced therapists beginning to look for job opportunities in other states. I believe that only 1 other state does not require state licensing for respiratory care.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: If there is not funding under the DSHS, then perhaps a transfer to another licensing organization could be instituted.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree

Jennifer Simpson



June 24, 2014

The Honorable Jane Nelson
Sunset Advisory Commission Chair
P.O. Box 12068
Capitol Station
Austin, Texas 78711

Re: Sunset Advisory Commission Department of State Health
Services-Regulating Respiratory Care Practitioners

Dear Senator Nelson:

We write to you today on behalf of patients living with Cystic Fibrosis (CF) in the state of Texas. Cystic Fibrosis is a genetic disease wherein manifestations and symptoms can vary widely from patient to patient. For people living with complex, rare diseases like cystic fibrosis access to appropriate treatments is critical to maintain health and quality of life.

The Cystic Fibrosis Foundation is the nation's recognized expert in the area of CF treatment. The Foundation accredits 115 care centers and 60 affiliate programs across the country and provides them with systematically reviewed clinical practice guidelines. Texas is home to seventeen accredited care centers.

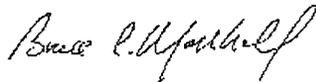
Cystic fibrosis affects approximately 30,000 children and adults in the United States and 70,000 people worldwide. There are approximately 1,778 patients living with this disease in Texas. Treatment options for this rare, life-threatening genetic disease affecting just over 1,700 Texans are extremely limited. As a class of drugs, inhaled antibiotics are vital and necessary for effective CF care. They are used to improve respiratory symptoms for people with CF who have *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, a bacterium that colonizes in the lungs and is associated with increased morbidity and mortality. Because 80 percent of people with CF die of respiratory failure, treatment of lung infections is a fundamental aspect of care. The use of these medications along with treatment by respiratory care practitioners (RCPs) is vital to our patients' care. Respiratory care practitioners play a vital role in the care of CF patients since a huge part of their illness impacts their respiratory system. RCPs play a critical role at our CF Care Centers in the day to day care of our CF patients.

We understand that you are considering the deregulation of respiratory care practitioners and we urge you to reconsider this position as we believe it is critical for these practitioners and the services they provide to continue to be regulated. We are greatly concerned that the Sunset Commission's recommendation will have a negative impact on patients relying on RCPs. Medical mistakes are a major cause of mortality in the US. The complexity of the current healthcare system, the speed with which new drugs and treatment options reach the market, the technical expertise required of RCPs demands that multiple layers of oversight exist. The only consistent oversight required of all RCPs occurs through licensure/regulation by the Department of State Health Services (DSHS). Our recommendation is not to

deregulate RCPs', but for the Respiratory Care Practitioners program to either remain with the DSHS or to be transferred to the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR).

Thank you for your consideration and understanding about our concerns. We would be happy to discuss this matter with you further please feel free to contact Alyssa Maher, my executive assistant at 301-907-2535 or amaher@cff.org.

Regards,



Bruce C. Marshall, M.D.
Senior Vice President of Clinical Affairs
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation



Mary B. Dwight
Senior Vice President of Government Affairs
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation

cc: Senator Brian Birdwell
Senator Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa
Senator Dan Patrick
Senator Charles Schwertner
Dawn Buckingham, M.D.
Ken Levine, Director
Tom Luce
Representative Richard Peña Raymond
Representative Larry Gonzales
Representative Harold V. Dutton, Jr.
Representative Cindy Burkett
Representative Four Price
Katharine Teleki
Eric Beverly
Anne Bradley
Erick Fajardo
Drew Graham
Janet Wood
Jennifer Jones