

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 8:22:53 AM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Friday, June 20, 2014 7:48 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 - 07:47

Agency: DEPARTMENT STATE HEALTH SERVICES DSHS

First Name: Debra

Last Name: Smith-Harr

Title:

Organization you are affiliated with:

City: Port Lavaca

State: Texas

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

I am opposed to the abolishment of the Respiratory Care Practitioners Certification Program.

I have been a licensed respiratory therapist in Texas since 1989. I have worked in hospitals in areas such as neonatal units, intensive care units, and emergency departments. I have worked with teams in the hospital that needed my expertise at the bedside to help with the resuscitation of a dying patient.

Respiratory therapists are part of a team in the medical community. We, alongside physicians, nurses, and radiology technicians, make a huge impact on the survival of ill patients. We have skills for patient care that no other department in the hospital has.

If the Respiratory Care Practitioners Certification Program is abolished, here are several issues I am concerned about:

1. Nurses will be expected to do the jobs that respiratory therapists are doing now. They will not have the benefit of the education to perform the needed task at hand. The patients will be neglected in the area of respiratory care.
2. The hospitals will stop hiring respiratory therapists and therefore put themselves in a potential environment for lawsuits. If a mechanical ventilator is not operated correctly, it can have life changing consequences for a critically ill patient.
3. There will be unemployed college graduates that worked very hard to pass all the tests with the National Board for Respiratory Care. There are 14,615 respiratory therapists licensed in the State of Texas.
4. Each patient in the hospital could potentially need a respiratory therapist. Whether it is because of pneumonia after a surgical procedure or a mechanical ventilator after a car accident, each and every hospital patient needs to have a respiratory therapist available to help handle these life threatening conditions.

I have worked with nurses that not only could not do the job of a respiratory therapist, but they do not have the skills or the time to do our job. A respiratory therapist does more than just breathing treatments; we are the guys in the

hospital that keeps the life support systems going.

I hope you will see that the Respiratory Care Practitioners Certification Program is not an area where cuts should be made in Texas.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: Fees for license renewal can be increased. Texas is one of the states that the license renewal fee is very low compared to other states. Although it will be a hardship with the extra fees, it will be better than losing our profession in the Great State of Texas. Also, moving to a 3-year renewal rather than the two-year renewal would also have a savings for the Respiratory Care Practitioners Certification Program office staff. The staff, at this time, has 14,615 respiratory therapist to manage. Each year they are dealing with approximately 7,308 renewals. Moving to the 3-year renewal plan, they would be managing approximately 4,871 renewals each year. One suggestion for the 3-year renewal fee would be \$100 versus the current \$45 for the 2-year renewal fee.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree