

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Janet Wood](#)
Subject: FW: Terrible mistake
Date: Monday, June 23, 2014 3:10:17 PM

From: Tamara, Luis A.
Sent: Monday, June 23, 2014 2:50 PM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Cc:
Subject: Terrible mistake

Dear Texas Sunset Commission:

I am a Nuclear Medicine service chief writing in OPPOSITION to the Sunset Advisory Commission's Staff Report - Issue 3 - recommendation to discontinue medical radiologic technologist licensing.

It is imperative that the State of Texas continue the licensing and regulation of radiologic(Nuclear Medicine , CT, MRI etc) technologists.

Licensure for radiologic technologists ensures that patients are being treated by individuals who have met educational and certification standards.

Licensed radiologic technologists administer ionizing radiation, a known carcinogen, to patients in the lowest doses possible 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.

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Licensed radiologic technologists provide interpreting physicians with technically consistent and correctly performed procedures , which improve the accuracy of diagnoses. Unlicensed personnel may provide inconsistent or improperly performed procedures , reducing the diagnostic effectiveness of exams and increasing the need for repeat

imaging procedures. Repeat imaging increases radiation exposure and medical costs.

Licensed radiologic/Imaging technologists adapt procedures and technical factors to each individual patient's needs. The radiologic technologist's training allows for technologists to evaluate the patients's medical status, history, underlying pathologic processes, and physical factors to create a quality diagnostic image or therapy that is truly individualized for each 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.

In short, IT IS AN ENORMOUS MISTAKE, to consider employing unlicensed (and potentially unqualified) technical personnel to put in charge of handling radioactive isotopes, ionizing radiation in general, contrast media, magnetic fields and its associated hazards etc.

This would very surely result in swift and evident patient harm.

Very respectfully,

Luis A Tamara M.D.

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***Board Certified by American Board of Internal Medicine, American Board of Nuclear
Medicine, Certification Board of Nuclear Cardiology and Nuclear Medicine Technology
(NMTCB).***