



Research for a Cure

3300 Ponce de Leon Blvd.  
Coral Gables, Florida 33134  
Toll Free: (877) 228-7321  
Tel: (305) 567-9888  
Fax: (305) 567-1317  
www.alpha-1foundation.org

#### Board of Directors

##### Executive Committee

Gordon E. Cadwgan, Jr., Ph.D.\*  
Chair  
West Palm Beach, FL  
Kenneth Irvine+  
Vice Chair  
Greenwich, CT  
Martin R. Zamora, M.D.  
Secretary  
Aurora, CO  
James Quill\*  
Treasurer  
Bluffton, SC  
William J. Martin II, M.D.  
Scientific Advisor  
Rockville, MD

##### Members

Jeanine M. D'Armiento, M.D., Ph.D.  
New York, NY  
Shane Fitch+  
Cascais, Portugal  
Elizabeth Johnson\*  
Winchester, MA  
John S. (Jack) Reid+  
Manakin, VA  
Joe Reidy\*  
Waldwick, NJ  
Stephen I. Rennard, M.D.  
Omaha, NE  
Judith Simon\*  
Denver, CO

##### Director Emeritus

Marilyn V. Fernandez+  
Miami, FL

##### President and CEO

John W. Walsh\*  
Co-Founder

##### Clinical Director

Robert A. Sandhaus, M.D., Ph.D.

##### Scientific Director

Adam Wanner, M.D.

\* Diagnosed Alpha-1  
Antitrypsin deficient

+ Diagnosed family member

May 30, 2014

Senator Jane Nelson  
Chair  
The Sunset Advisory Commission of Texas  
P.O. Box 13066  
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Senator Nelson:

The Alpha-1 Foundation is a not-for-profit organization whose mission is to support and develop research and programs that will improve the lives of people affected by Alpha-1 Antitrypsin Deficiency worldwide through education, advocacy, better treatment and ultimately a cure.

Alpha-1 is a genetic condition that may result in serious, chronic lung and/or liver disease in children and adults. Alpha-1 affects an estimated 100,000 people in the U.S., and an estimated 20 million more are carriers who can pass the gene on to their children. Alpha-1 is the most common known genetic risk factor for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).

The ability to access qualified respiratory therapists is critical to the quality of life for people with Alpha-1 and an important component of the disease management.

Respiratory therapy licensure protects Alpha-1 patients from incompetent practitioners rendering the complex cardiopulmonary services and procedures that respiratory therapy requires.

If Texas were to repeal licensure, it would become a magnet for individuals who do not meet the qualifications for licensure in their own states. It would also remove any state scrutiny of those who will provide life-sustaining respiratory therapy to people with Alpha-1.

In order to maintain a safe and trustworthy healthcare system, Texas needs to rely on licensed, professional respiratory therapists.

The Alpha-1 Foundation opposes the Sunset Advisory Commission's recommendation to rescind mandatory licensure for Texas respiratory therapists. We urge you to maintain mandatory respiratory care practitioner state licensure and transfer mandatory state respiratory care practitioner licensure to the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation.

Respectfully,

John W. Walsh  
President & CEO, Alpha-1 Foundation

The Alpha-1 Foundation is dedicated to providing the leadership and resources that will result in increased research, improved health, worldwide detection, and a cure for Alpha-1 Antitrypsin Deficiency. Alpha-1 is one of the most common hereditary disorders in the world and can result in life-threatening lung disease in adults and liver disease in children and adults.