

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Janet Wood](#)
Subject: FW: MRT Continuance
Date: Wednesday, June 25, 2014 8:00:11 AM

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From: Watson, Ashley
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2014 6:17 AM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: MRT Continuance

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this letter in response to the recent report developed by the Texas Sunset Advisory Commission which recommends the discontinuance of the MRT Licensure Program and the repeal of licensing standards in Texas. Being a licensed MRT in Texas myself, I want to take a moment to impress upon you the importance of preserving the need for licensed radiographers, radiation therapists, and nuclear medicine technologist.

First of all, licensing of radiology technologist ensures that individuals have met the educational and certification standards of the field. It also prompts radiology technologist to keep up with advancements and continuing education which only sets the standards higher individuals in the field. In having the these requirements, you are reassuring patients and saying that technologists are capable of partaking in health care. Would you want a nurse participating in your care that wasn't licensed or that hadn't met the educational requirements? What about a doctor? I think not! Having licensing for radiology technologists lets our patients know we have met the required educational standards, are certified, will continue to improve and that we are more than qualified to aid in their treatment.

Secondly, look at the radiation safety standards. Radiation safety and standards are of utmost importance when dealing with patients especially those that have to receive ionizing radiation (a known carcinogen). Licensed radiology technologist have studied the effects of ionizing radiation while performing medical imaging and/or treating cancers and other illnesses; they know how to decrease patient exposure and optimize technique which in turn leads to a lower dose of radiation to not only the patient but those around the patient as well. The non-licensed technologist has not been educated nor do they understand the effects ionizing radiation can have on patients; therefore they are not as conscientious about the radiation safety standards and could potentially unknowingly harm patients or others.

Next, having a state regulated licensure for radiology technologists allows the state to persecute and penalize individuals in the field that do not comply to set professional standards. Without the licensure, untrained technologists are not held accountable or penalized for mistreating individuals; the state would be unable to protect these individuals and its citizens. Could we imply, that without licensure, the state could ultimately be responsible for the patient's mistreatment since they did not have a set of standards in place for the field? Why not...

Lastly, take into consideration the various other fields not just in healthcare that have to meet educational and certification standards. What makes those fields any more important? Healthcare is one of the most important fields; we all at one point in time will be treated or taken care of by an individual that works in the healthcare industry. Medical imaging and radiation therapy are both crucial parts of that healthcare industry in the state of Texas. Would you not want a licensed radiology technologist taking care of you? What about your loved one? I would.

The necessity for licensed radiographers, radiation therapist, and nuclear medicine technologist is clear not only from my perspective as a technologist, but also as a patient and loved one. Thank you.

Ashley Watson RT(R)

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