



JUN 19 2014

June 4, 2014

Senator Jane Nelson
Chair
The Sunset Advisory Commission of Texas
PO Box 13066
Austin, TX 78711

Dear Senator Nelson:

Allergy & Asthma Network Mothers of Asthmatics (AANMA) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to ending the needless death and suffering due to asthma, allergies and related conditions through outreach, education and advocacy. Asthma and allergies affect over 50 million Americans and cost the US over \$80B in direct and indirect costs each year.

The ability to access qualified respiratory therapists is critical to the health outcomes and quality of life for patients with asthma. Respiratory therapy licensure protects patients from incompetent practitioners while ensuring those with the most severe disease have the care needed.

If Texas were to repeal licensure it would become a haven for those who do not meet the licensure requirements in their respective states. Furthermore it would remove any state oversight of those who provide respiratory therapy services to people with asthma.

AANMA opposes the Sunset Advisory Commission's recommendation to rescind mandatory licensure for Texas respiratory therapists and urges you to use your authority as Chair to remove respiratory therapists from the list of healthcare professions under consideration for de-licensing.

All my best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tonya A. Winders", is written over a long, thin horizontal line that extends across the page.

Tonya A. Winders
President & CEO, AANMA