Board of Registration of Respiratory Care

239 Causeway Street

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Dear Members of the Board of Respiratory Care,

 I wish to make a testimony contesting the changes being made by the board regarding the number, type, and method of Continuing Education Units (CEU) required for State Licensure. I feel the decision was made without all the appropriate details in place and could create undue burden on our field in this state.

Increasing the number of CEU’s from 15 to 30 every 2 years is a tremendous increase in CEU’s and would put us at the top for state requirements for CEU’s compared to other states in the country. The National average for CEU’s is 17.9 for respiratory. The 15 CEU’s that has been required is slightly below the national average. An increase is most likely warranted. Although doubling it seems excessive. Therapists in western Ma where I work would be negatively impacted, with increase in personal cost. (The salary average in western ma is lower than eastern ma) The added burden of attaining double CEU could deter therapist from practicing in this state or in parts of the state where the pay is less.

In addition limiting the number of online CEU’s is a hardship. Here in western Ma there are a very limited number of conferences (in person), and if you are lucky enough to get the time off to go to them you still are shy on the 15CEU’s. So increasing that means therapist have to travel incurring more cost, making it more of a hardship. If an online course was approved by the AARC then why shouldn’t it count for the same as an in person AARC approved? They both were credit approved.

The NBRC is moving away from CEU’s requirements, starting in 2019 their new requirements will be helping decrease the burden of CEU’s by requiring a yearly competency exam, based on the results of this exam it would decrease or eliminate the Number or CEU’s to maintain National credentialing. If this direction that our credentialing agency is going then why wouldn’t the Board of Respiratory Care in Massachusetts want to follow suit? This state should try to follow their lead to maintain some continuity for our profession.

I feel that any changes going forward should be ironed out before being put into place. Although we are slightly below the national average for CEU requirements a slight increase might be warranted. Although maintain the ability to earn our CEU’s online would decrease some of the burden.

Regards,

Alice Castine, RRT

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