The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Executive Office of Health and Human Services

Department of Public Health

Bureau of Health Professions Licensure

Board of Registration of Respiratory Therapy

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To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept this written testimony as a proposed change to the Massachusetts Board of Respiratory Therapy regulations 261 CMR 5.02 to increase the required number of CEU’s from 15 to 24 biennially.

Based off of acquired data, out of 52 Respiratory Care Societies in North America, Massachusetts is among the lowest 9 societies in the nation that require 15 or less CEU’s biennially. (CO, OK, CT, IN, HI, MA, VT, RI, OR) Increasing the number to 24 will bring Massachusetts in line with the top 21 societies that require 24 CEU’s or more. (AL, AR, CA, FL, GA, ID, IL, IA, KA, KY, MN, MT, MO, NH, NJ, NC, PA, SC, TN, TX, WA) States not included in this comparison required between 16 and 20 CEU’s respectively. Please note that some states collected their CEU’s triennially. That too was taken into consideration for these figures.

Increasing the amount of CEU’s Respiratory Therapist need to achieve will promote the importance of **"improving the delivery of health care to the public by ensuring appropriate on-going activities/programs to enhance the knowledge and, skills, and/or attitudes of respiratory therapists, so that they may continue to practice competently, safely, and effectively." This is a direct** quote taken from the proposed revised definition of a CEU in Regulations 5.02. Increasing the required number of CEU’s will also demonstrate the states interest in advancing our profession while growing with the rest of the country.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Andrew R. Schwartz, RRT, CPFT