Dear Members of The Board of Respiratory Care,

This correspondence is in relation to the proposed changes to the requirements of continuing education hours from 15 to 30.

As a Respiratory Therapist since 1987, I am against the increase in the required continuing education hours per licensure period. I believe 30 contact hours is excessive and unattainable given staff and budget shortages in most respiratory departments.

If you compare requirements with nurses, they have to obtain 15 contact hours, in which, all of them can be via online courses. I had thought, a couple of years ago, when respiratory therapist were able to obtain all 15 contact hours via the internet, was a very big step forward. This 15 contact hour requirement lessened the burden and stress of respiratory therapist throughout Massachusetts. Now with the proposed increase in contact hours, we will be heading in the opposite direction. I believe the 30 contact hours every 2 years will be unattainable to most respiratory therapist and detrimental to our profession. This change will reduce an already scarce respiratory workforce. Many of us respiratory therapist will not be able to get the time off to attend conferences. The financial burden is also a consideration. I only get reimbursed eight hours per year for education. I myself, cannot afford to miss days off from work and then also, to have to pay for each conference I attend. This change will also, deter, future students from enrolling in the already scarce respiratory therapy programs left in this state.

Please tell me how a profession, such as nursing, who deal with multiple human body systems, are required to only obtain 15 contact hours/2 years, all of which, can be via internet, when respiratory therapist who deal with mainly the respiratory system will be required to obtain 30 contact hours/2 years, with only 15 via internet. This just does not make sense.

Please re-consider this senseless increase in contact hours, and keep the requirements that are already in place.

Thank you,

Barry Janssens,RRT,CPFT

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