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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Executive Office of Health and Human Services

Department of Health

Bureau of Health Professions Licensure

Board of Registration of Respiratory Care

239 Causeway Street

Suite 500

Boston, MA 02114

Dear Sir, Madam,

I am writing to the board of respiratory care to oppose the proposed changes to the respiratory therapist continuing education requirements. I have been a respiratory therapist for four years and have been working the night shift for the past three years. As a fairly new therapist, I rely on my night shift differential to help supplement my income to financially support my family and pay a substantial student loan debt.

As a current license holder and practitioner I am required to take classes in many areas of healthcare to remain a competent therapist. Doubling the education requirements would in no doubt cause a financial strain on me and many of my colleagues. The specific nature as to how we are to attain now 30 CEUs will not only take us away from our families but also time away from our careers.

The nursing profession is not held to these requirements. Nurses cover all aspects of patient care whereas our profession is specialized to respiratory needs of the patient. Starting wages are considerably higher for registered nurses compared to registered therapists. As to why the board would burden our profession so drastically is incomprehensible when efforts should be focused on fighting for higher wages and greater respect for our profession.

I respectfully urge the board to reconsider these proposed changes to increase the education requirements and allow us to continue to fulfill our 15 CEUs in areas of healthcare that pertain to our profession.

Sincerely,

Donna M Paliotti, RRT