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Massachusetts Society for Respiratory Care  
239 Causeway St.  
Suite 500  
Boston, MA 02114-4499

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter to you as the Director of Respiratory for a Boston area Hospital. This letter is being written with my strong reservations about the proposed changes to the continuing education requirements for licensed Respiratory Therapists. I disagree with this and below are my reasons:

* To double the amount of hours needed for MA state licensure is outrageous. I’m very against the increase in this number because there have been dramatic decreases in the amount of conferences available to attend. As it is now, when employees want to attend conferences it’s half of the staff attending and the other half upset because they “need CEU’s.”
* The specification of at least half the new proposed hours must be “acquired by attendance at in-person, live training sessions, seminars or conferences” is costly. Respiratory Therapists are not getting increases in salaries and most places pay rates are actually decreasing. Travelling to conferences in other states is expensive. Our hospital does not offer in-house opportunities for continuing education hours so all expenses are out of pocket.

Just to compare: Most Nurses have the same Associates Degree as Respiratory. Nurses need 15 CEU’s every two years and can obtain all online. Why are there such restrictions for Respiratory, a want to double the amount for every 2 years and requiring Respiratory to take 1 contact hour for 8 mandatory subjects?

I ask that you please reconsider this proposed change. Most Respiratory Therapists have 2 if not 3 jobs just to pay the household bills. This will be yet another financial burden on top of the little money we make to begin with.

Thank you for your time in this matter.

Leanne Jolicoeur, RRT