TO MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF RESPIRATORY CARE: JULY 20th, 2018

MY NAME IS MELISSA AND I HAVE BEEN A RESPIRATORY THERAPIST SINCE 1995 AND ENJOY MY PROFESSION IMMENSELY.

IT HAS COME TO MY ATTENTION THAT THE BOARD IS PROPOSING TO DOUBLE THE CEU REQUIREMENTS FROM 15 CEUS TO 30 CEUS AND THAT 15 OF THE CEUS MUST BE OBTAINED VIA A LIVE CONFERENCE.

THE DEPARTMENT I WORK IN IS VERY SMALL WITH JUST 4 STAFF MEMEBERS, 2 OF THE 4 BIENG FULL TIME STAFF. DOUBLING THE AMOUNT OF CEUS AND LIMITING HOW WE CAN OBTAIN THE CEUS ONLINE WILL PLACE A FINANCIAL BURDEN AS WELL AS A SCHEDULING BURDEN ON THE DEPARTMENT AND WILL ULTIMATLEY EFFECT THE QUALITY OF PATIENT CARE.

I’VE BEEN A RESPIRATORY THERAPIST FOR OVER 20 YEARS. ACQUIRING KNOWLEDGE VIA ONLINE METHOD IS JUST AS VALUABLE AND RELIABLE AS ATTENDING A CONFERENCE. THE EXPENSE TO TRAVEL TO A CONFERENCE SITE AS WELL AS TRYING TO FIND COVERAGE FOR WORK SHIFTS IS NOT FEASIBLE FOR THE MAJORITY OF RESPIRATORY DEPARTMENTS IN TODAYS DEMANDS OF BALANCING PROFESSIONAL WORK LIFE AND HOME.

REGISTERED NURSES IN MA CURRENTLY ONLY NEED 15 CEUS TOTAL TO MAINTIAN THEIR LICENSE WITH NO LIMIT ON HOW MANY THEY CAN EARN ONLINE. ARE WE NOT BOTH PROFESSIONALS IN THE MEDICAL FIELD THAT ARE TRYING TO ACHIEVE SIMILAR EDUCATIONAL GOALS?

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND CONSIDERATION ON THIS MATTER.

SINCERELY,

MELISSA MISTRETTA, RRT

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