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Subject: BORRC: 261 CMR

Board of Registration Members,

I am writing this letter to express my opposition to the proposed changes regarding our continuing education requirements from 15 contact hours to 30 contact hours as well as the limitation on the number of contact hour that may be obtained through online resources. According to 261 CMR 5.00: CONTINUING EDUCATION section 5.01 “The goal of continuing education is to improve the delivery of health care to the public by ensuring appropriate on-going activities/programs to enhance the knowledge, skills, and/or attitudes of respiratory therapists, so that they may continue to practice competently, safely, and effectively.” There are currently over 3000 licensed respiratory therapists in Massachusetts that would now be required to attend live seminars.

Creating restrictions on the modality of continuing education that will be accepted by the Board of Registration of Respiratory Care you are in fact creating a limitation with regards to the education of respiratory therapists in direct conflict with the stated goal of the board which is to “enhance the knowledge and skills and/or attitudes of respiratory therapists.”

Respiratory Therapists are being encouraged to seek higher education, yet the only options available to Massachusetts respiratory therapists seeking that higher education are online distance education opportunities. We are also being encouraged to advocate for and support technology every day, the most recent avocation being for telehealth.

In response, you, our board are proposing a limitation of online resources. There is no evidence to suggest that online resources are any less effective in providing meaningful, accurate and up to date evidence based medical information to healthcare professionals. Please vote “NO” in terms of changing the number of contact hours from 15 to 30 and please do not limit our resources for continued education.

Respectfully,

Michael J. Enos, BA, RRT, RPSGT