February 1, 2018

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Department of Public Health

Board of Respiratory Care

239 Causeway St., Suite 500

Boston, MA 02114

Dear Members of the Board of Respiratory Care,

It has been brought to my attention that the Board is considering some changes to continuing education requirements. I fully appreciate that continuing education is key to the enforcement and betterment of RT’s knowledgebase and enhancement of their clinical practice. I also support the idea that continuing education should be relevant to one’s job responsibilities and that educational programs should be rigorous and meaningful.

As a neonatal-pediatric specialist I strive to attend programs that are pertinent to my everyday practice, but will also seek out programs related to critical care even if they have an adult focus, and symposia that are related to management as I am a director. I also think the manner in which continuing education is acquired—web-based, journal review, workshop—does not matter as long as the program is robust and meets the necessary requirements.

The proposed list of required topics that has been circulated seems quite onerous, particularly non-clinical topics such as medical record keeping, ethics, and preventative medicine. I urge you to consider that our workforce may not have the time and resources to abide by such prescribed and rigid requirements and opportunities to do so may not be abundant. I also have to wonder if the Board has the bandwidth to audit these proposed changes. Additionally, the description of contact hours and how they translate to continuing education units is confusing.

As you continue to refine continuing education requirements, I urge you to take these matters into account and develop a structure that is attainable and not too burdensome.

Respectfully

Peter Betit MBA, RRT-NPS, FAARC

Director Respiratory Care & ECMO Program