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To Whom it may concern:

I am writing this letter in response to the Board of Respiratory Care proposed change in continuing education requirements for license renewal.

The proposed change to increase required educational requirements from 15 contact hours to 30 contact hours with 8 of the 30 contact hours required in specific defined areas will create an unnecessary financial and time consuming burden on many practicing respiratory therapists in the state. The requirements of how and where to obtain the contact hours seem arbitrary.

Respiratory therapist obtain education from a multitude of sources already. Many of us attend conferences, grand rounds, listen to guest speakers at department meetings as well as obtaining CEUs from scholarly articles and online education. Our institution (like others) mandates an annual education requirement that covers the 8 required topics in the boards proposal. This proposal would be a redundant and unnecessary in many cases.

As Respiratory Therapists, we understand that we need to be self-directed in keeping up with CEU obligations not only for license renewal but also for practicing safe patient care in a variety of settings. Whether it is 15 or 50 contact hours, Hospital Administrators, Respiratory Department Managers and Supervisors want to be sure that their Therapists are ready and able to care for patients in the most efficient, safest and professional manner possible despite the number of contact hours on paper.

Continuing Education is important part of our profession, but the current proposal to increase the contact hours from 15 to 30 with 8 specific topics should not be enacted at this time.

Thank you

Scott Deslauriers