**From:** [Sherri Engel](mailto:spiresrt@hotmail.com)

**To:** [DPH-Testimony, Reg (DPH)](mailto:RTestimony@MassMail.State.MA.US)

**Subject:** BORRC: 261 CMR

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Kindly accept this email as my opposition to the proposed state mandate that respiratory therapists will need 30 CEUs every two years.

It seems highly unfair that respiratory therapists would need 30 CEUs when professional counterparts such as RNs require 15 every two years.

Also, it is costly for a respiratory therapist to obtain 15 CEUs in and of itself. Only 6 CEUs are allowed to come from correspondence courses.

The other 9 must come from live, in-person lecture or some kind of clinical experience. Seminars offering lectures are costly. This year’s MSRC conference costs $220, and that is only for one day (which offers 6 CEUs per day). What about the remaining 3 CEUs? Go to another day of seminar, which now costs $280 total (if RTs go both days, then total cost is $280. $220 is if only one day is attended.)

The other problem is the time needed to obtain CEUs. Trying to make time between working full-time and raising a family, makes it difficult to “squeeze” the time in needed to obtain CEUs. Seminars require time out of work (with our own personal paid time), and online courses require the time needed to be set aside while at home. I try to spend any remaining “free” time I have with my family. If more CEUs are required, my family’s quality time suffer would suffer because I’d need to sit in front of a computer to take an online course? Or it would cost me more to stay out of work, plus have to pay out more money for a seminar? Where’s the fairness in that?

All the meanwhile, our professional counterparts most of the time pay nothing out of pocket because they can obtain all their CEUs from online “correspondence”, in which the majority of them are free courses. It’s no secret that RNs make more money in comparison to RTs. How is it fair that RTs are dishing out a lot more money to keep their professional license active?

Thank you for your time.

-Sherron Engel

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Sent from my iPhone