

Human Service Committee  
Room 2000, Legislative Office Building  
Hartford, CT 06106

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a respiratory therapist from Danbury and am writing because I'm concerned about HB 5476. I request that your committee strongly consider that the language of HB 5476 "An Act Expanding Consumer Choice for Skilled Nursing Care At Home" be amended to include licensed respiratory therapists as those who may provide services under this pilot project.

I strongly support the intent of HB 5476, a pilot project to offer a home care option to ventilator dependent patients in need of skilled care. I have worked with many patients who have needed ventilator care in the home and have not had sufficient access to professionals who can care for them and teach their family how to care for them as well.

Licensed respiratory therapists, who are the primary clinician that provides care to ventilator patients was omitted from the bill language.

Mechanical ventilation is a complex task that requires the caregiver to understand the technical components of the ventilator, the pathophysiology of the respiratory system, and patient-ventilator interaction.

Respiratory therapists are specifically educated and competency tested in all aspects of cardio-respiratory services, including management of the ventilator patient in all care settings.

There are numerous Clinical Practice Guidelines (CPGs) to be utilized specifically by respiratory therapists. These CPGs are either peer reviewed or evidence based and are published in the scientific Journal Respiratory Care. <http://www.rcjournal.com/cpgs/index.cfm>

For example these several of the CPGs respiratory therapists follow which are directed specifically at providing ventilator care. These include:

*Long-Term Invasive Mechanical Ventilation in the Home*

*Selection of Device, Administration of Bronchodilator, and Evaluation of Response to Therapy in Mechanically Ventilated Patients*

*Evidence-Based Guidelines for Weaning and Discontinuing Ventilatory Support*

*Care of the Ventilator Circuit and Its Relation to Ventilator-Associated Pneumonia*

*Endotracheal Suctioning of Mechanically Ventilated Patients With Artificial Airways 2010*

*Selection of Device, Administration of Bronchodilator, and Evaluation of Response to Therapy in Mechanically Ventilated Patients*

*Patient-Ventilator System Checks*

Respiratory therapists are clearly on the forefront of providing the full range of services to ventilator dependent patients and would be invaluable to the patients if permitted to be part of this important pilot project.

Sincerely,



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