

March 12, 2012

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

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Connecticut Society for Respiratory Care (CTSRC) representing the interests of nearly 2000 licensed Connecticut respiratory therapists, I am requesting 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.

The CTSRC supports the intent of HB 5476, a pilot project to offer a home care option to ventilator dependent patients in need of skilled care.

However, 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, there are several 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.

The Connecticut Society for Respiratory Care respectfully requests that HB 5476 be revised to include licensed respiratory therapists.

Sincerely,

Peter W. Kennedy, PhD, RRT
Respiratory Care Program Director