

HB 2305 will take jobs away from unemployed and underemployed Oregonians who are currently qualified for Polysomnography and Respiratory Therapy licensure. This Bill will allow out of state, on the job trained (OJT), polysomnographic techs to be licensed in Oregon. The Bill attempts to slip-past the legislature the fact that OJT training is NOT quality education and DOES NOT protect the public.

In my 24 years of working in sleep, the technology and knowledge required to provide safe and effective patient care has grown exponentially. The requirements of polysomnographic technologists at the bedside can no longer be met by minimalist training on the job. It's just not safe for patients.

I am an on-the-job (OJT) trained polysomnographic (sleep) technologist who opposes HB 2305 which will allow hiring out-of-state polysomnographic sleep technologists and allow sleep labs to go back to training new OJTs to care for patients while they sleep, the most vulnerable patient care time. The Respiratory Therapy and Polysomnographic Licensure Act began requiring sleep techs become licensed in Jan 2013, allowed OJT sleep techs to be grandfathered into licensure if they were Board-certified with either RPSGT or SDS credentials and required future polysomnographic sleep techs to have formal education to obtain licensure. I have passed both sleep credentials, RPSGT & SDS, and recognize the huge gaps in my training and knowledge from On the Job training. Gaps which are detrimental to patients. Only my formal, college level training in other medical fields allows me to be a safe sleep practitioner.

Formal education in Polysomnography requires college level training in an accredited program that meets national standards which consistently covers all aspects of sleep medicine. There are two formal sleep education programs in Oregon, Linn-Benton Community College and Oregon Institute of Technology. There is one sleep education program in Washington, Highline Community College. Both Highline and OIT Polysomnography program directors have stated their graduates are not getting jobs and face unemployment upon graduation.

HB 2305 will eliminate the requirement for formal education and go back to licensing OJTs. This is what I oppose and you who represent public safety, should too.

I spent many years managing the Kaiser Permanente Sleep lab and recognize that OJTs have incomplete and inconsistent training. Whereas formally trained, college level sleep techs provide safer care and higher quality care to my patients. And isn't protecting the public from unsafe care and low quality care just what licensure is suppose to do?

When the RT and Polysomnography Act was written, it included grandfathering all OJT sleep techs and required new sleep techs to have formal education. HB 2305 will support hiring out of state people when Oregon graduates from formal education programs are not finding jobs in-state. HB 2305 and wants to eliminate the formal, college level education requirement and go back to licensing OJTs. The OHLA Respiratory Therapy and Polysomnographic Technologist Licensing Board rejected their request last year as the education requirement for sleep techs helps protect the public from inconsistent and incomplete on-the-job (OJT) training. Legacy has now gotten a Bill (HB 2305) introduced into the Oregon Legislation to go back to OJT sleep techs. At the OHLA Licensing Board hearing, the public record shows Legacy stated there were 3 out of state sleep techs that were OJTs who had difficulty getting a license in Oregon. They also

said 2 of the 3 were able to get licenses, one who retook the RPSGT Board exam (the law says it has to be passed within the last couple of years) and the other was also a RT who could be licensed and provide care to sleep patients. So the 3rd person took a job in California, which only requires registration not licensure for sleep techs.

The Healthcare system that is behind this bill stated they want to recruit and hire out of state sleep techs. Between the three NW sleep schools providing the required formal education, there are ~35-40 graduates per year that Legacy is NOT recruiting nor hiring. Some of these Oregon graduates are unemployed and we should support our education system and help these grads get jobs. There are also at least 75 unemployed Oregon Respiratory Therapy graduates who, with a 2-3 week training orientation, can be licensed and provide high quality sleep care under the current law. Why would the Legislators support hiring out of state people when there are unemployed Oregonians who can provide this service?

The Oregon Society for Respiratory Care(OSRC)also opposes this bill.

Joe Dwan, MS Ed, RRT-NPS-ACCS-SDS, RPSGT, FAARC
Beavercreek, OR