



*An affiliate of the American Society for Respiratory Care*

February 6, 2015

The Honorable Mitch Greenlick  
900 Court St. NE  
H-493  
Salem, OR 97301

**RE: HB 2305 Polysomnography Licensure**

Dear Chairman Greenlick

The Oregon Society for Respiratory Care opposes HB 2305. Over the course of several years, the Oregon Society for Respiratory Care has worked diligently and in good faith alongside the Oregon Sleep Society to create a formal licensure by passing a law that would provide licensing to individuals who provide sleep testing. Together, it was decided to have clear education, testing requirements, and a mandated pathway for sleep techs to gain an Oregon license. This education requirement is in place to provide a level of assurance for the qualifications and competency of those in Polysomnography who provide a range of test services to the citizens of Oregon.

Passing SB 2305 would change all of that. The revision of the current law would allow individuals with combination of education and training to obtain a polysomnography license. This circumvents the required formal education and testing that Oregon requires now. It does not specify an education pathway. It would allow On the Job trainees licensure without a formal education. The premise of having a formal education was to elevate the profession. This bill would be a giant step back as well as putting Oregon citizens at risk.

Oregon has two accredited polysomnography education programs, Linn-Benton Community College and Oregon Institute of Technology which produces 30 to 40 graduates a year. Formally educated Polysomnographic Technologies are readily available for employment in Oregon. This does not include graduates from accredited Respiratory Care programs who can also be employed in sleep labs. Allowing On the Job trainees to work as Polysomnographers is neither

necessary or in the best interest of the public health and safety. The Joint Respiratory Therapist and Polysomnographic Technologists Licensing Board carefully considered changing the licensure regulations in 2012. The board denied the change to protect the health and safety of the citizens in Oregon. Yet, the supporters of re-establishing an On the Job pathway to polysomnography licensure have taken their failed regulatory to the Oregon Legislature. The Oregon Society for Respiratory Care respectfully asks you and your Committee Members to dismiss SB 2305.

Sincerely

Cathy Melero, RRT, BSHA  
President  
Oregon Society for Respiratory Care