

April 27, 2015

Senator Laurie Monnes Anderson, Chair, Senate Committee on Health Care
Members, Senate Committee on Health Care

RE: Support for House Bill 2305

I am writing in support of my fellow sleep techs from out of state who are trying to obtain licensure here in Oregon.

First a little something about me, I too was a "transplant" first from Denver, Colorado but further in the past from Vancouver, Canada. I went through my training/education in Canada & as a dual citizen have found steady employment in the U.S.A. My story reflects part of the diverse background that many in our field possess. More importantly if we as a state block the "free flow" of commerce by prohibiting experienced techs from coming in from outside our state we hurt ourselves just as much as we hurt them.

A brief summary of my education & career to this point:

Graduated in 1997 from the British Columbia Institute of Technology

- Achieved an Associate's Degree in Electroneurophysiology. This is a two year technical program that included PSG (sleep) studies. Graduated with Honor's at head of class. Received the first Electroneurophysiology Award ever granted.

Moved to Denver after graduation.

- Worked at what is now called National Jewish Health in Denver, Colorado (nationally recognized as the #1 Respiratory/Allergy/Immunology Hospital in the U.S. Worked in their sleep lab which has the distinction of being the longest accredited sleep lab in the state of Colorado. Worked there 10 years receiving my RPSGT credential while employed there.

Moved to Oregon in 2007

- Worked at OHSU as sleep lab manager for 18 months before cutbacks
- Currently working as Chief Lab Technologist for Westside Sleep Center in Tigard, Oregon going on six plus years
- I received my state certification to work in the state under a temporary "grandfather" provision during this time

During all this time I have maintained my CPR qualifications as well as CEU requirements.

Why do I write the above? Because I'm afraid legislators have been fed a "false narrative" about qualifications, sleep techs & safety.

Firstly, as an RPSGT (a nationally recognized credential), I have already achieved the highest level of training & qualification possible in my field. The RPSGT designation already implies the educational & ethical provisos that I must maintain in order to stay in the field of sleep medicine.

Secondly, in 17+ years of working on patients & side by side with other techs, I can honestly say that no sleep tech caused injury or death has occurred in my places of employment. The technologies that we use (including autoSV and AVAPS) are "non-invasive" and have an excellent safety records.

Thirdly, limiting the accepted educational pathways to only the most recent has already done damage to the profession here in Oregon. I know of several exceptional techs who have moved out of state to provide the exact same service elsewhere.

In summary, as someone who has hired sleep technologists I look for three things: a clean criminal background/drug test, the RPSGT designation & experience. Requiring one specific educational background over another does not add any value to the process and prevents Sleep Labs in Oregon from hiring experienced, educated, well-qualified sleep technologists.

Sincerely,

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