



CSRC Supports State Regulation of Respiratory Care

Position Paper of the California Society for Respiratory Care – July 2014

The California Society for Respiratory Care recognizes the purpose of respiratory care regulation is to safeguard the public's health, safety, and welfare by establishing minimum qualifications and creating exclusive titles corresponding to the level of qualifications for individuals who wish to offer respiratory care services to the public. Further, in order to insure the highest degree of professional conduct by those engaged in offering respiratory care services to the public, it is the purpose of these regulations to provide and impose disciplinary sanctions, be they civil or criminal, against persons who do not meet or adhere to the procedures, qualifications and standards.

State licensure affords (1.):

- Improved quality of bedside care provided by the RCP and reduced risk of harm to the patient.
- A higher level of RCP skills, training, and continued education.
- Positive economic impact as RCPs contain healthcare costs through patient assessment, aggressive modification of therapy, and applying important protocols.
- Ongoing monitoring processes to protect the general public from inappropriate, unethical, and incompetent respiratory care.
- A distinguishable autonomous scope of practice.
- State and National standards of practice.
- Self-supporting regulation of the Respiratory Care Occupations.
- Licensing reciprocity.

Each state's respiratory society needs to actively educate their community, local and state government on the significant role that respiratory therapists play in the healthcare arena. This is made possible when the state respiratory society is properly funded through paid membership. In the highly charged political environment, membership is the universal measure of strength. The CSRC and our Respiratory Care Profession are clearly at great risk. Presently, out of more than 34,000 licensed RCPs in the state of California, only 1% are members of the CSRC. It is time to get off the fence and take an active role in protecting your profession and your livelihood. Non CSRC members need to become part of the solution. Professionals pay dues to their Professional Societies because they know it will give their Society strength in numbers. They are ready to respond for the call to fight for the profession that means so much to them. When letters, emails, and phone calls are needed to defend and elevate our profession, CSRC members are ready to spring into action. If you are part of the 1%, create a membership drive at your workplace. Become an active member of your regional group and help increase membership and promote state and local government affairs. If you are not an active CSRC Member, the time is here. Join and help us protect your profession.