

AMERICAN SLEEP APNEA ASSOCIATION
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February 3, 2009

Ms. LaSharn Hughes, Executive Director
Georgia Composite State Board of Medical Examiners
2 Peachtree Street, NW 36th Floor
Atlanta, GA 30303-3465

Dear Ms. Hughes,

I am writing on behalf of the American Sleep Apnea Association in support of the Georgia Association of Sleep Professional's position that Sleep Technologists should be considered as a health-allied profession that is separate and distinct from Respiratory Therapy.

The American Sleep Apnea Association is a national non-profit patient advocacy organization dedicated to reducing injury, disability and death from sleep apnea and to enhancing the lives of those affected by this common disorder. The association is an educational resource for both the diagnosed and undiagnosed. We sponsor of network of support groups around the country, to help apnea patients facing challenges in their treatment.

The Sleep Professionals can speak to the specifics of Sleep Technologists' expertise and specialized training as distinguished from the Respiratory Therapist. The association's members are the beneficiaries of that training when they are prepared for in-lab sleep studies as well as fitting CPAP masks during CPAP titration studies.

The Sleep Technologists are also involved following the study and serve as a local resource to answer questions the newly diagnosed patients. This is vital especially in the early stages of treatment.

We agree with the Georgia Association of Sleep Professionals and the American Academy of Sleep Medicine in that the Respiratory Care Act should exempt all Registered Polysomnographic Technologists and Technicians in the State of Georgia until such time that legislation can be submitted for separate licensure or formalized exemption.

Thank you for opportunity to provide our opinion on an issue that is important to those suffering with sleep apnea.

Sincerely,

Edward F. Grandi

Edward Grandi
Executive Director