



Pennsylvania Society for Respiratory Care, Inc.

To: Senator Leadership
From: Pennsylvania Society for Respiratory Care, Inc
Date: April 26, 2011
Re: SB 5

On behalf of the Board of Directors for the Pennsylvania Society for Respiratory Care (PSRC), I'd like to commend you on your support thus far of SB 5 which would establish the Community-Based Health Care (CHC) Program in the Department of Health and provide for hospital health clinics.

Respiratory therapists have long been a part of the health care team that treats patients with respiratory-related chronic conditions such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and asthma. COPD is now the 4th leading cause of death in the United States. In addition, the CDC ranks Pennsylvania among the top 10 states with the highest prevalence of asthma at approximately 10%.

Emergency rooms in hospitals across the state are being overrun with patients suffering from the effects of these diseases. It is well documented that given proper education, ongoing care and early treatment, many of these visits to the ER could be avoided as well as numerous hospital admissions. We believe that hospital health clinics and the CHC will make it easier for these patients to have access to this information and care.

Therefore, the PSRC fully supports your efforts to adopt SB 5 and will ask the over 7,000 Respiratory Therapists in the Commonwealth to contact their state senators to voice their support of the legislation as well. If you should need anything further from me, please do not hesitate to contact me at any time.

Respectfully,

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