

## Talking Points

### Minnesota Respiratory Therapy State Capitol Day – Mar 4, 2020

#### Introductions/Background

● Introduce yourself: You are a constituent and a Respiratory Therapist. You represent the Minnesota Society for Respiratory Care and the Minnesotans in your district with lung illness.

#### What is a Respiratory Therapist?

● Ask if they know what a respiratory therapist does. Member/staff may not know the skills of a respiratory therapist (RT).

● Explain what a respiratory therapist does. Include examples of what you do as an RT. Be brief.

#### What you want Members/staff to know

- **Ask them to support our efforts to move our minimum entry into MN licensure for the following reasons:**
  - Ensuring improved patient safety
  - Alignment with healthcare shifting towards clinical management of chronic disease
  - Advancement of our profession and competency level to be consistent with recent changes adopted by registered nurses and physical therapists and other allied professionals
  - Current RTs will be “grandfathered” meaning those with a current MN respiratory therapist license will retain licensure and not be required to have RRT (many already have this credential)
  - School curriculums are already designed to prepare the RT student to take and pass the RRT-exam therefore matching existing education standards with the appropriate credential based competency
  - Move the respiratory profession closer to a statewide scope of practice as opposed to individual hospital-regulated scope of the respiratory therapy discipline (many hospitals already require RRT for employment)
  - American Association for Respiratory Care (AARC) position is that by 2030 this will be the national standard of practice
- Ask what issues are important to them