



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR RESPIRATORY CARE  
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March 6, 2014

Ruth Brinkley, FACHE  
President & CEO  
KentuckyOne Health  
200 Abraham Flexner Way  
Louisville, KY 40202

Dear Ms. Brinkley:

We have been informed by several of our members in Kentucky about layoffs of respiratory therapists in your health system. We understand that health care institutions must make business decisions to improve their financial viability, but we are concerned that this decision could compromise the quality and safety of care delivered to patients with cardiopulmonary disorders throughout your system.

While we are not fully apprised of the facts in the decision to eliminate respiratory therapists from some of your care settings, we do have concerns about the competency and proficiency of others who may be called upon to replace those respiratory therapists. As you know, respiratory therapists are professionals educated, credentialed, and tested for competency and expertise in providing the full range of respiratory care services.

We urge you to consider how backfilling these responsibilities with non-specialized health care providers may adversely impact patient care. We also welcome the opportunity to have a dialogue with you about the roles, capabilities, and responsibilities of the respiratory therapist.

We would ask you to please reconsider the decision to remove any or all licensed, competency tested and proficient respiratory professionals from these settings for your patients with cardiopulmonary disease.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'George Gaebler', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

George Gaebler, MEd, RRT, FAARC  
AARC President