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**American Association for  
Respiratory Care**

## **Joint Statement from American Association for Respiratory Care and the New York State Society for Respiratory Care**

May 18, 2020

The American Association for Respiratory Care (AARC) and the New York State Society for Respiratory Care are aware of a recent resolution introduced by Legislator Jeanne Vinal, who represents Erie County in Western New York State, and subsequent comments she made in an interview to address what has been reported as a shortage of respiratory therapists in the county. The resolution encourages the Erie Community College to consider developing a respiratory therapy training course for nurses to supplement resources needed to respond to COVID-19 in that county.

The AARC, the New York State Society for Respiratory Care and individuals at Erie Community College have been in contact to discuss the situation. As this is a local matter, the Erie Community College will respond directly to Legislator Vinal. In doing so, we encourage the College to ensure competency of those individuals who provide oversight and management of complex respiratory equipment necessary to meet the demands of caring for critically ill patients diagnosed with COVID-19.

The continuously expanding knowledge base of today's respiratory care field requires a highly educated professional. Factors such as increased emphasis on evidence-based medicine, focus on respiratory disease management, demands for advanced patient assessment, and the growing complexities of healthcare and equipment, clearly mandate that respiratory therapists achieve formal academic preparation commensurate with an advanced provider role.

The AARC and the NYSSRC strongly support the scope of practice for respiratory care that is necessary to maintain generally accepted standards of care for mechanical ventilation as published in our collaborative issue paper with the University Hospital Consortium in 2016 (<https://www.aarc.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Issue-Paper-Safe-Initiation-and-Management-of-Mechanical-Ventilation.pdf>).