



November 13, 2014

The Honorable Jane Nelson, Chair
Texas Sunset Advisory Commission

Dear Senator Nelson and Members of the Sunset Commission:

As a City Council Member in the City of Fort Worth, TX, I am very concerned about the Sunset Advisory Commission Staff Report recommendation to abolish the Texas Council on Purchasing from People with Disabilities (TCPPD or the Council) and transfer oversight and administration of the State Use Program to the Office of the Comptroller of Public Accounts. Expanco, Inc. in the district I represent in Fort Worth operates a Community Rehabilitation Program. I have seen firsthand the many benefits that their clients receive from this program. I am not convinced that the Office of the Comptroller can be more effective than members of the Council. Community Rehabilitation Programs like Expanco play an integral role in the continued success and growth of the State Use Program, and they serve as critical advocates for the needs of Fort Worth citizens with disabilities by providing meaningful employment opportunities.

Many clients served by CRP's do not have the ability nor do their families desire for them to be "mainstreamed" or work in conventional work environments. When possible job outplacement is a good outcome for clients with disabilities but that is not the only good option. Transferring the oversight of the State Use Program to the Office of the Comptroller could jeopardize CRP's ability to employ persons with multiple disabilities who depend on these workplaces to provide income and fellowship and to add meaning and richness to their lives.

Oversight and administration of the State Use Program should not be transferred to the Office of the Comptroller of Public Accounts. The current TCPPD model is successful and effective, and the Council should continue the oversight of the State Use Program. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kelly Allen-Gray, Councilmember District 8, City of Fort Worth



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