

**From:** [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)  
**To:** [Janet Wood](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Concerned Counselor  
**Date:** Thursday, November 17, 2016 7:14:29 AM

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**From:** Berry, Jeremy J [mailto:[jeremy.berry@tamuct.edu](mailto:jeremy.berry@tamuct.edu)]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 16, 2016 5:02 PM  
**To:** Sunset Advisory Commission  
**Subject:** Concerned Counselor

To whom it may concern:

I am a counselor and a counselor educator. I work both in a University setting and in practice in multiple clinical settings. I am vehemently opposed to having our licensing board and its responsibilities handed over to an already over-extended Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation. Within the scope of the various helping professions, there are many aspects that require special knowledge and attention. The oversight of the licenses for counselors, marriage and family therapists and social workers alike, are far beyond the scope of the TDLR. If the concern is fiscal, why not allocate funds that are brought in specifically by licensing fees directly to the Texas State Board of Examiners to support their efforts? My great concern is that moving licensing and regulation to the TDLR will adversely affect license holders, counselors in training or transition, and future counselors (students). In addition, this addition strain on the TDLR will further place at risk those the TDLR are currently regulating and will likely be detrimental to their efficiency. I do not feel that the TDLR is equipped to adequately regulate mental health professionals. I respectfully urge you to retain the autonomy of the Texas State Board of Examiners of Professional Counseling.

Respectfully and Sincerely,

Jeremy J. Berry, Ph.D., LPC-S, NCC  
Assistant Professor of Psychology and Counseling  
Graduate Coordinator – Clinical Mental Health Counseling  
Texas A&M University – Central Texas