

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Cecelia Hartley](#)
Subject: FW: Comments on Sunset Commission Healthcare Consolidation Proposal
Date: Tuesday, November 29, 2016 8:57:48 AM

From: Bezner, Janet R
Sent: Tuesday, November 29, 2016 8:52 AM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Comments on Sunset Commission Healthcare Consolidation Proposal

Dear Mr. Levine,

I am writing to provide input on the Sunset Commission Healthcare Consolidation Report. As a physical therapist who has been licensed in Texas for over 25 years and who hopes to practice in Texas for another 10-15 years, I have significant concerns about the recommendations in the report. I am a faculty member at Texas State University and I provide physical therapy services as a part of the employee wellness program at Texas State, including physical activity classes and health coaching services.

I oppose the recommendation to consolidate the Texas Board of Physical Therapy Examiners (TBPTE) with other health-related boards and move them to the TDLR. The TBPTE has a long history of providing efficient and effective services. The Sunset report fails to mention that the cost per licensee will increase if the TBPTE is consolidated and moved to TDLR. With 13 physical therapy programs and 28 PTA programs in the state, there are 700 plus new PT and PTA licensees each year, meaning that the TBPTE will grow in the ensuing decade, potentially lowering the cost per licensee. The TBPTE does not appear to be a “small” licensing board as the report suggests – I believe it sticks out as not fitting into the large category and not fitting into the small category. It appears to be a medium-sized board that is posed to grow significantly over the next decade. With efficient and effective systems already established in the current TBPTE, it should remain independent.

Second, it also concerns me that the ultimate decision-maker at the TDLR on issues related to physical therapy will be in the hands of individuals who are not physical therapists, who know little about what we do or how we do it. The report mentions that this isn’t really a concern because the “TDLR consults with the advisory boards on matters requiring professional expertise.” This process seems more bureaucratic rather than less bureaucratic – why add another layer of approval – especially one that involves all lay persons who don’t understand the nuances of our profession? The current TBPTE contains a balance of lay persons and professionals who together serve to protect the interests of the public.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on the report. I hope that the TBPTE can remain where it is and not be moved to TDLR and consolidated with other health boards.

Sincerely,
Dr. Janet Bezner, PT, DPT, PhD