

Sunset Advisory Commission:

November 29, 2016

Thank you to the Texas legislation and the Sunset Advisory Commission (SAC) for ongoing assessment of the Texas Board of Physical Therapy Examiners (TBPE) governance and associated policies and procedures to protect the citizens of Texas.

I am a Texas licensed physical therapist with a Doctorate in Physical Therapy with clinical specialization and board certification in Orthopaedic Physical Therapy. I attained my initial physical therapy degree from the U.S. Army-Baylor Physical Therapy program in 1990. I have had the opportunity to work in a wide variety of settings and with a wide variety of professions both in and out of federal service. I have since retired from the Army and now proudly serve the citizens of the great state of Texas and our profession as a full-time professor in a Doctor of Physical Therapy program.

I previously contacted the Sunset advisory Commission to provide my input. I am writing this letter to re-affirm a particularly critical issue that has the potential to undermine the safety of care delivery and increase organization expense as follows. My recommendations from my April 2016 submission stand.

PRIMARY ISSUE:

I oppose the consolidation of the TBPE into the TDLR. Consolidation of the TBPE into the TDLR would undermine the ability of our doctoring profession to be regulated in a fashion that has excellently served the people of Texas. Specific concerns are the regulation of our profession would in part be delegated to staff that lack the requisite knowledge to make to make informed decisions about our profession, scope of practice and organizational management. Further, the initial recommendation of this Sunset Advisory Commission report stated the organization “has been a stable, well-run agency, with an experienced, capable staff” and recommended retaining the TBPE as an independent agency. An additional concern of consolidation of the currently well-run TBPE is increased cost of operations and potential degradation in the standard of patient safety in Texas.

My recommendation is that the TBPE be retained as an independent agency so that it may continue its tradition of providing exceptional service and protections to Texans.

My initial April 2016 position stance on this specific topic is as follows;

Issue 4: The State Has a Continuing Need to Regulate Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy

STANCE: Strongly support

BACKGROUND: Physical Therapy, similar to other health professions including physicians, dentists, and nursing, has a continued requirement for oversight to ensure public safety and that public interests are protected.

RECOMMENDATION: Retain the ECPTOTE as an independent agency. Retain the ECPTOTE as the administrative oversight agency of the TBPE.

Thank you again for your time and serving the public’s interest.



Respectfully,

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