

To: The Sunset Commission
Re: Recommend Retaining the Texas Board of Physical Therapy Examiners as an Independent State Agency
From: Jan Brown PT, DPT
Date: November 28, 2016

Greetings to the Commission,

I am a Physical Therapist, licensed to practice in Texas since 2002 after receiving my Doctor of Physical Therapy degree from the University of Southern California in 2001. I have read the recommendation of the Sunset Staff to combine the TBPTE into the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TCLR) and I am opposed to this move.

My first concern is the impact on Continuing Education programs for Physical Therapists. I am bombarded on a daily basis with national vendors advertising their educational offerings. Since continuing education is mandatory here in Texas and is often paid for by the employers it appears we have deep pockets that are attractive to these national based vendors. The TBPTE has done an outstanding job making sure the educational programs are not just rubber stamped. I complained to the Board about a presenter who claimed his methods "cured cancer". The Board was very concerned, assured me it would be investigated immediately and I no longer see that vendors advertisements in Texas. If the TCLR assumes responsibility for approving and monitoring Physical Therapy Continuing Education I believe vendors may see a very lucrative opportunity in Texas.

My second concern is about the impact on handling claims of substandard care or practice methods by physical therapists. Our profession has maintained high standards of care, increased the curriculum of our schools to Doctorate level and developed documentation that allows patients and third party payers to be pleased with the care they receive and the reimbursement for that care. That is not easy to do and the TBPTE has been adamant we pursue and maintain that quality. Our profession would go from the entire Board and Staff pushing and encouraging us to a couple of staff members on a very large organization and gradually quality and documentation may decline.

Finally, the TBPTE actively monitors and protects patients from individuals or businesses that claim they provide skilled Physical Therapy services when they are not licensed to do so. Sometimes an individual is unaware they are not allowed to provide these skilled services and the Board has the knowledge and understanding to correct the situation. But the fact that the title of Physical Therapist and Physical Therapy services carries a positive and trusted reputation has attracted people attempting to present themselves as equivalent practitioners and adequate providers of our services. And that must be guarded against in the interests of the entire healthcare system lest someone gets hurt and everyone loses.

The Texas Board of Physical Therapy Examiners should remain an independent state agency, it has proven to be cost effective and retained standards that allow me to be proud to practice Physical Therapy in Texas.

Kind Regards,

Jan Brown PT,DPT