-----Original Message-----
From: sundrupal@capitol.local [mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local]
Sent: Friday, June 06, 2014 10:49 AM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Friday, June 6, 2014 - 10:48

Agency: DEPARTMENT STATE HEALTH SERVICES DSHS

First Name: Dallas

Last Name: Ferguson

Title: LPC; Social Study Evaluator; Certified Mediator

Organization you are affiliated with: Harris County Domestic Relations Office

City: Houston

State: Texas

Your Comments About the Staff Report, Including Recommendations Supported or
Opposed: I am in opposition to Recommendation 3.2 to transfer the Texas State Board of Examiners to the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation and reconstitute this independent board as an advisory committe. I take great offense that the Sunset Review is making a conserted effort to de-professionalize mental health services. LPCs must continue to be well trained and adhere to high professional standards. The question is: Would members of the Sunset Review want to obtain mental health services for themselves, their own family members, or their friends from an individual who does not even hold a bachelor's degree, much less an advanced graduate degree, like all of the other occupations currently licensed by TDLR?
Mental health licensing requirements will eventually be watered down if put under this agency, and many people will be harmed; both the individuals seeking mental health services and the individuals providing mental health services.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: It would make more sense to combine the various mental health boards into a Behavioral Sciences Administration much like the Texas Medical Board.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree