

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Cecelia Hartley](#)
Subject: FW: Sunset Advisory Commission Staff Report on the Health Licensing Consolidation Project.
Date: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 8:07:48 AM

From: Julie DeVahl
Sent: Tuesday, November 29, 2016 9:07 PM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Sunset Advisory Commission Staff Report on the Health Licensing Consolidation Project.

Thank you for allowing me to comment on the Sunset Advisory Commission Staff Report on the Health Licensing Consolidation Project. I am a physical therapist employed in an academic medical center for the past 14 years. I am an assistant professor and I teach doctor of physical therapy students. I also evaluate and treat patients in the outpatient setting. I have been a physical therapist for 37 years of which 23 have been in Texas (Dallas-Fort Worth area).

The report is very comprehensive and I agree with the basic premise that best business practices should not be ignored in government agencies. However, I have concerns about changes in an agency that is currently doing its job effectively and efficiently. Therefore, I oppose the consolidation of the TBPTE into the TDLR. The TBPTE has been very responsive to a tight time frame for processing applications by examination for our physical therapy students. The students must apply for licensure and be approved to test for a national exam that is given only four times a year. At my program, the students graduate in December and test at the end of January. The TBPTE has worked with the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy to develop a system that allows for a pre-authorization step. Once they complete the DPT program, the final authorization to test is granted. I am not aware of any students that have missed the deadline date due to the TBPTE's delay in processing applications.

I also feel that the safety of patients is enhanced by an agency that knows the roles and responsibilities of the health care providers that it oversees. Representative(s) from the TBPTE meet with our students annually in person to impress upon them the responsibility they have as future licensees. The large-scale operation of the TDLR will not provide for this type of service.

Julie DeVahl, PT, DPT
Board Certified Clinical Specialist in Orthopedic Physical Therapy
Certified in Dry Needling
Assistant Professor, Director of Clinical Education
Department of Physical Therapy; School of Health Professions
The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center
6011 Harry Hines Blvd; Dallas, TX 75235-8876