

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Cecelia Hartley](#)
Subject: FW: Sunset Health Licensing Consolidation Project
Date: Monday, November 28, 2016 8:13:00 AM

From: Virginia Ellis
Sent: Saturday, November 26, 2016 4:38 PM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Sunset Health Licensing Consolidation Project

Dear Sunset Commission:

I am writing in response to your request for comment on the proposed inclusion of The Texas Board of Physical Therapy Examiners Board (TBPTE) into the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR).

I am a Physical Therapist Assistant and have been licensed in the state of Texas since 1/1998. Even when I was not a resident of Texas, I maintained a license in this state due to the fact that the Texas State Board was the best one of the 9 states I was licensed in as a "traveling" therapist. Also, I am a Texas.

I respectfully disagree with the recommendation to transition The TBPTE. In your report, you have identified some common problems with Regulation Agencies involving patient care, specifically for the TBPTE:

1. Slow complaint resolution
2. Ineffective complaint prioritization
3. Lacking consistency in penalties
4. Size and resources limit effectiveness and customer service

It is my experience that all of these concerns are due to an increase in the number of individuals that the TBPTE are responsible to vet, license and deal with. At this time, with healthcare in it's usual state of flux- we are uncertain if we have too many PT/PTAs or not enough -do patients have insurance to help them PAY for our services or can everyone get PT since we all have insurance?. I do know we have had and continue to have a lack of PT/PTAs in certain areas of the state of Texas. If this storage was truly addressed- there would be that many more people for the TBPTE to license and maintain. I have read the budget and know that what the TBPTE brings in from licensure and other fees is significant versus what the state of Texas gives them for a budget. With an increase in budget all 4 of the above issues would be gone. Should this board be operating on the same budget that they had 10 years ago? Why not consider a formula for FTE/per number of licensees?

In my experience, the TBPTE is comprised of real people who answer questions in a timely manner and do quite well for the lack of resources allowed by the state of Texas. I have attempted to call other boards for information- including the TDLR- there are many layers of frustration and poor response to what could be something very vital to a patient or client's care.

I urge the Sunset Board to please consider to implement your original recommendation to continue the TBPTE as an independent agency for the next 12 years. Our current board is more cost effective than the TDLR would be (per your analysis) and we would retain the professional expertise that is required for safe patient care and the decisions that affect that care. I do understand that an advisory board would be made in the case of dissolution of the TBPTE- but my understanding is that the ultimate decisions for much of our profession would fall to non-clinical, non hands-on staff (TDLR Commissioners).

I currently work in hospitals and also provide home health care physical therapy in Corpus Christi, Texas. I have been in this area for over 10 years and look forward to having our rock solid TBPTE to help us- as a profession- through the struggle that our changing healthcare environment gives us on a yearly basis.

Thank you for your consideration,
Your in health!

Virginia I. Ellis

Physical Therapist Assistant
Licensed Massage Therapist
Certified Kinesio Taping Instructor