

From: [Elizabeth Jones](#)
To: [Trisha Linebarger](#)
Subject: FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
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From: sunset@sunset.texas.gov On Behalf Of Texas Sunset Commission
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 11:55:42 AM (UTC-06:00) Central Time (US & Canada)
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Agency: TEXAS DEPARTMENT LICENSING AND REGULATION

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State: Texas

Your Comments About the Staff Report, Including Recommendations Supported or Opposed:

Dear Commission members,

I was recently made aware you are considering the termination the licensing requirements for polygraph examiners. As a treatment provider of sex offenders, this quite alarming.

In working with sexual offenders and polygraph examiners in the last twenty five years I have learned a great deal regarding polygraphs and polygraph examiners. Polygraphs are only as good as the examiner! Many people think a polygraph is only a matter of connecting a person to a machine and reading the results. Nothing could be further from the truth. There is a huge amount of science involved in performing a polygraph which extends far beyond the machine itself. The utility of the polygraph has advanced the treatment and monitoring of sex offenders light years. The polygraph provides a means to obtain the truth from sexual offenders who deny committing these horrific crimes. Additionally, the polygraph breaks down the denial of the families of sexual offenders who also claim their family member did not commit sexual crimes due to the stigma associated with harming children.

The implementation of the polygraph into sex offender treatment and monitoring has allowed our field to become much more effective than in the years prior to it's use.

As I stated previously, I have worked with many different polygraph examiners in the last twenty five years. It has been shocking to learn their different levels of expertise. These were all licensed individuals. There were many who just seemed to be interested in connecting the machine and reading the so-called results. This approach produces very poor and inaccurate results because there is far more to a polygraph than reading the machine results. There is a great deal of science in question construction which many licensed examiners appear to disregard. When this occurs, it is unprofessional, inaccurate and potentially damaging to innocent persons. Additionally, it causes guilty persons to pass a polygraph because the questions were poorly constructed. I cannot say enough about the total science utilized to perform an accurate polygraph.

Knowing the importance of the science and having personal experience of witnessing many poor polygraphs in my

twenty five years, you can imagine how alarmed I was hearing your commission was considering the licensure requirement. If the results I have mentioned occurred with licensed polygraph examiners, I can't imagine what the outcome would be if the licensure requirement was dropped. If there ever was a profession that needs licensure, it's the polygraph field. Please take some time to learn about the total science related to polygraph administration. If you will look closely and speak to professionals like myself who work with polygraph examiners, I am certain you will find the same concerns from them as I have shared.

**I TOTALLY OPPOSE REMOVING THE LICENSING REQUIREMENT FOR POLYGRAPH EXAMINERS!
IT WOULD HARM PEOPLE...CHILDREN.**

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: In addition to my opposition of removing the licensure requirement for polygraph examiners, I am recommending stronger training requirements in addition to licensure.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree