

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Dawn Roberson](#)
Subject: FW: Sunset Commission Report - Stae Board of Dental Examiners
Date: Friday, April 22, 2016 8:01:48 AM

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From:
Sent: Thursday, April 21, 2016 5:26 PM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Sunset Commission Report - Stae Board of Dental Examiners

In response to the Sunset Commission Report on the State Board of Dental Examiners on the section dealing with the numbers of dentists on the Board and comments made in the report regarding dentist-members of the Board performing their responsibilities:

I take exception to comments that a reduction in the number of dentists on the Board is appropriate. Reducing the numbers of dentist board members and “farming out” duties essentially removes Texas dentist-members of the Board from active participation in fulfilling their responsibilities to our citizens as TSBDE members. Hopefully, Board members were placed in a position of authority and responsibility because with their knowledge and experience they could perform exactly what the position of a Board member requires and demands. Dentists should sit as the final arbiters of dental care issues! Issues of competence, care or professional ethics cannot BEST be determined by a lawyer, by staff or by an accountant nor should they be delegated to anyone other than bona-fide member of the State Board of Dental Examiners! In addition to being appropriately remunerated for performing their appointed duties, Board members should and must be held accountable for their actions. An appointment by the Governor to any board, by the nature of the process itself, is politically charged and by no means, or no stretch of the imagination, will every appointment be the right person for the job. However, the Governor should and must be called to account where political appointments fail to provide board members capable work diligently, appropriately and without conflict of interest.

In my opinion, the recent document by the Sunset Commission in many areas reflects more on staff issues, not dentist issues. The huge turnover in both Board staff and Sunset Commission staff, particularly in the areas of administration and legal, are profoundly indicative of problems with the Agency itself, not the dentists on the Board! After reading the Sunset Commission Report, I must wonder where such creative thinking originates. It takes years for good education plus experience to produce competency in any job related to healthcare. Any recommendation that there be fewer dentists than non-dentists on a dental board must be totally out of touch with what should be and must be required and expected of those who sit in judgment of health, safety, right and wrong for the citizens of Texas.

I agree with continuing the Board! But, the legislature should demand a capable staff and provide adequate leadership, direction and funding, provide better compensation to staff and Board members to keep good people working, call for competent non-conflicted board appointees from the Governor, and above all, demand accountability in every job function.

Respectfully submitted,

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