

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Janet Wood](#)
Subject: FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Wednesday, November 16, 2016 8:14:38 AM

-----Original Message-----

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Tuesday, November 15, 2016 10:25 PM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Agency: TEXAS STATE BOARD SOCIAL WORKER EXAMINERS

First Name: Betsy

Last Name: Fredrickson

Title: Licensed Clinical Social Worker

Organization you are affiliated with: Wheatfield Therapy

Email: betsy@wheatfieldtherapy.com

City: AUSTIN

State: Texas

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

- Continue the autonomous regulation of licensed professional counselors, marriage and family counselors and social workers. I oppose the recommendation to relegate the Texas State Board of Social Work Examiners and the other mental health professional licensing boards to advisory status under the over-extended Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR).
- Oversight of mental health professionals is beyond the scope of TDLR. Currently, none of the occupations regulated by TDLR work with fragile individuals struggling to overcome devastating psycho, social, emotional and physical challenges. A move to TDLR will not resolve access to care or regulatory challenges. The board recommended would not be familiar with the education and training that is required to become a licensed social worker at each level.
- TDLR is not equipped to regulate mental and behavioral health professionals. Expanding the scope of TDLR beyond its mission is likely to adversely impact consumer protection thus impacting the most vulnerable of people.
- Retain the structure and autonomy of the Texas State Board of Social Work Examiners as well as the other boards. Setting and enforcing clear, ethical training and practice standards for mental health professionals can only be accomplished by professionally specialized and independent licensing boards who have a similar educational background and truly understand the nuances of this work. Best practice to protect consumers is to have Independent, professionally specialized boards with public members that regulate mental health care and continue to protect the most vulnerable people with whom this profession works.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: Not at this time

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree