

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Cecelia Hartley](#)
Subject: FW: Opposition to the consolidation of the TBPTE into the TDLR
Date: Tuesday, November 29, 2016 1:10:08 PM
Attachments:

From: Barbara Freeman
Sent: Tuesday, November 29, 2016 1:07 PM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Opposition to the consolidation of the TBPTE into the TDLR

Dear Sunset Commission,

I have reviewed the Sunset Advisory Commission Staff Report regarding the Health Licensing Consolidation Project. I continue to be in opposition to the consolidation of the TBPTE into the TDLR. One table in the report seemed to highlight the limited problems in the PT and OT Boards. 1) Limited or no fingerprint background checks. This subject was under consideration and could be implemented without dissolving the TBPTE. 2) Lacking consistency in penalties. I read the Communique publication from the TBPTE and the disciplinary actions appear consistent for similar infractions. 3) Cost due to lack of economies of scale. There is no proof that decreasing the cost of licensing would improve the services provided back to the therapists. 4) Turnover poses high risk to agency functions. This is the case with any department or agency. If there is a high turnover with TDLR, responsibilities would be assumed by another department until positions were filled.

I believe a better recommendation from the Sunset Commission might be to hire more staff in the TBPTE to improve systems that could provide more efficiency as identified. By keeping the TBPTE as an independent agency, it is guaranteed to have decision-makers that have requisite medical knowledge and healthcare experience to make appropriate decisions involving "hands on" patient care that Physical Therapists routinely deliver. From my 20 years' experience as a practicing PT and member of the TPTA and APTA, the TBPTE is a cost efficient, operationally effective and well managed state agency. Consolidation of the TBPTE into the TDLR will lead to the erosion of my profession, minimizing this specialized field of healthcare services.

Please consider my plea to keep the TBPTE as an independent agency.

Barbara Freeman, PT
Regional Rehabilitation Director