From: Elizabeth Garcia Sent: Saturday, November 26, 2016 3:19 PM To: Sunset Advisory Commission Subject: PT Licensure Board

Dear members of the Sunset Commission

I am a practicing physical therapist in Dallas, Texas writing to oppose the consolidation of the Texas Board of Physical Therapy Examiners (TBPTE) into the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR). I recommend the retention of the TBPTE as an independent state agency for the following twelve years.

Consolidation of the TBPTE into the TLDR will not result in taxpayer savings and will likely result in poor decision making by the TDLR Commissioners regarding the licensure of health care professionals. Poor decision making will result in decreased safety for the public.

The TLDR Commissioners have no educational background, professional experience, or general relevance to make decisions on any form of health care, let alone for a profession whose members are now educated at the doctoral level. I work in a Level 1 Trauma center, caring for the some of the most medically impaired individuals in North Texas. The TLDR Commissioners have no idea what I do professionally, what I know in terms of education, and therefore this consolidation plan is pure folly. Public safety would be at risk.

Furthermore, the TBPTE is a well-managed state agency. They are able to handle physical therapy licensure in a cost-effective way, and licensing costs would go up if the TLDR was in charge of PT licensing. As a taxpayer, I do not support inefficient government choices.

I strongly recommend the Sunset Commission maintain the TBPTE as an independent state agency.

Thank you for your time, Elizabeth Garcia PT, DPT