

**From:** [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)  
**To:** [Cecelia Hartley](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)  
**Date:** Monday, November 28, 2016 5:15:07 PM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]  
Sent: Monday, November 28, 2016 5:12 PM  
To: Sunset Advisory Commission  
Subject: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Agency: HEALTH LICENSING CONSOLIDATION PROJECT

First Name: Sally

Last Name: Harris

Title: Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant

Organization you are affiliated with: Harris Health System

Email:

City: Houston

State: Texas

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

I am writing to ask for your support in the upcoming legislative session regarding Sunset “Key Recommendations” 4.1 for the licensing board for my profession, TBOTE (Texas Board of Occupational Therapy Examiners)

This recommendation would continue the Texas Board of Physical Therapy Examiners and Texas Board of Occupational Therapy Examiners under the administration of the Executive Council of Physical and Occupational Therapy Examiners until 2029

I am asking that you not support consolidation under an umbrella licensing agency, which is in direct opposition to the “Key Recommendation”.

The sunset staff report states that because of the potential for harm to patients, Texas has an interest in regulating physical and occupational therapy. I wholeheartedly support this. Transferring more than 38,000 physical and occupational therapy licensees, at a time when the Texas Department of Licensing & Regulation is inheriting 13 Department of State Health Services Programs whose combined licensee population is more than 67,700 requires a high threshold. Based in TDLR’s estimates, and in consultation with Legislative Budget Board staff, sunset staff has determined that such a move would not result in a reduction in personnel or a cost-savings, undermining a major rationale for doing so. Specifically, TDLR indicates that it would need the same number of employees as the executive council and a one-time cost of about \$440,000 to pay for transferring the licensing data from the executive council to one of TDLR’s licensing systems. Thereafter, annual costs would be approximately the same. Why are we costing taxpayers nearly ½ million dollars for a transfer to an agency that has no cited benefit to our consumers?

Again, the Sunset Report stated clearly in their “Key Recommendation” they were against TDLR consolidation:

“4.1 Continue the Texas Board of Physical Therapy Examiners and Texas Board of Occupational Therapy Examiners under the administration of the Executive Council of Physical and Occupational Therapy Examiners until 2029.”

The licensing Board has a proven track record in timely issuance of licenses. Consolidation would delay issuance. As the TDLR staff is identical to what TBOTE has now yet will be issuing new licenses to applicants petitioning over a dozen agencies. This delay might impact a new grad’s decision on whether or not to choose to stay and work in Texas.

Furthermore, the investigation of consumer complaints was found to be efficient, conducting such with minimal cost as compared to other agencies. I am concerned that consolidation to an umbrella agency will impact the ability the board has to investigate claims timely. Our consumers, your constituents, would be potentially exposed to/harmed by a therapist or a facility that has a pending complaint as the consolidation staff is dealing with complaints of numerous boards and there will be an inevitable backlog.

While I understand this business model may work well for agencies that are either poorly regulated or managed and expensive to administrate, the Sunset Report clearly cites not advantage to consolidate the OT Board.

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Sally Harris

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: Continue the Texas Board of Physical Therapy Examiners and Texas Board of Occupational Therapy Examiners under the administration of the Executive Council of Physical and Occupational Therapy Examiners until 2029.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)  
To: [Cecilia Hartley](#)  
Subject: FW: I am against TDLR Consolidation  
Date: Tuesday, November 29, 2016, 10:06:53 AM

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From: Harris, Sally Woodward  
Sent: Tuesday, November 29, 2016 9:46 AM  
To: Sunset Advisory Commission  
Subject: I am against TDLR Consolidation

I am writing to request that in the upcoming legislative session, you support Issue 4.1, a "Key Recommendation" in the April 2016 Sunset Staff Report on the Executive Council and Texas Board of PT and OT Examiners. This recommendation would, "Continue the Texas Board of Physical Therapy Examiners and Texas Board of Occupational Therapy Examiners under the administration of the Executive Council of Physical and Occupational Therapy Examiners until 2029". Please do not support consolidation under an umbrella licensing agency.

Transferring more than 38,000 physical and occupational therapy licensees, at a time when the umbrella agency, Texas Department of Licensing & Regulation, is inheriting 13 Department of State Health Services Programs whose combined licensee population is more than 67,700 requires a high threshold. Based in TDLR's estimates, and in consultation with Legislative Budget Board staff, the sunset staff you delegated has determined that such a *move would not result in a reduction in personnel or a cost-savings, undermining a major rationale for doing so*. Specifically, TDLR indicates that it would need the same number of employees as the executive council and a one-time cost of about \$440,000 to pay for transferring the licensing data from the executive council to one of TDLR's licensing systems. Thereafter, annual costs would be approximately the same and there is no benefit to taxpayers and consumers. With no increase in personnel, but the additional burden of investigating complaints for consumers of 13 licensed health service programs, your constituents would potentially be harmed by the inevitable delay of complaint resolution.

Please support Issue 4.1 of the April 2016 Sunset staff report, as cited on page 4 of Erick Fajardo's Executive Summary:

[https://www.sunset.texas.gov/public/uploads/files/reports/Executive%20Council%20and%20Texas%20Boards%20of%20Physical%20Therapy%20and%20Occupational%20Therapy%20Examiners%20Staff%20Report%20Executive%20Summary\\_4-6-16\\_1.pdf](https://www.sunset.texas.gov/public/uploads/files/reports/Executive%20Council%20and%20Texas%20Boards%20of%20Physical%20Therapy%20and%20Occupational%20Therapy%20Examiners%20Staff%20Report%20Executive%20Summary_4-6-16_1.pdf)

I am requesting this as both a practitioner of occupational therapy, and for the health and welfare and protection of the Texans who are consumers of our services.

Sally Harris, COTA

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