From: Sunset Advisory Commission

To: <u>Janet Wood</u>

Subject: FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Date: Monday, November 14, 2016 8:14:13 AM

----Original Message-----

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local]

Sent: Friday, November 11, 2016 7:37 PM

To: Sunset Advisory Commission

Subject: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Agency: TEXAS STATE BOARD EXAMINERS PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS

First Name: Erica

Last Name: Henry

Title: Licensed Professional Counselor

Organization you are affiliated with: TCA

Email:

City: Houston

State: Texas

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

The autonomy of licensed professional counselors would be difficult to maintain if they are regulated by the TDLR. The Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation currently oversees many other licensed professionals of which differ very vastly compared to the counseling profession. The list of professions over seen by TDLR is quite long and it is not in the best interest of counseling professions to be added to that list as the scope of TDLR. The risk of impacting the efficiency and protection of the counseling profession is quite fragile as consideration is given to possibly LPCs, LMFTs, and LSSW provide services to individuals and families who are learning to develop skills in order to navigate challenges of psycho, social, emotional, and physical nature. Therefore, adding the licensing and overseeing of LPC, LMFT, and LSSW under the TDLR licensing board would be detrimental to the counseling profession and its autonomy.

Thank you for your time.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: Allow the Texas State Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors to remain autonomous and allow the funds from licensing fees to help fund and support the board.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree