

**From:** [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)  
**To:** [Cecelia Hartley](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Sunset Review  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 29, 2016 2:02:17 PM

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**From:** Hieken, Victoria  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 29, 2016 1:58 PM  
**To:** Sunset Advisory Commission  
**Subject:** Sunset Review

Good Afternoon,

My name is Victoria Hieken, and I am a student of physical therapy residing and going to school at The University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, Texas. As a resident of Galveston county, I am writing to oppose the consolidation of the Texas Board of Physical Therapy Examiners (TBPTE) into the Texas Department of Licensing and Registration (TDLR).

As a future physical therapist practicing in the state of Texas, it is important to me that our therapists be held to the highest ethical and clinical standards including, but not limited to, participation in high-quality continuing education and exceptional clinical care. Patient care should not only be safe and effective, but also provide patients with expert, research based treatments. Through the utilization of the TBPTE board, Texas had met and exceeded my expectations by meeting the aforementioned criteria in a cost efficient manner. While I understand the consolidation may seem reasonable to someone outside of the field of physical therapy, it does not provide me with confidence that these very important goals will be met. Only expert clinicians in my field of physical therapy should make decisions regarding what quality physical therapy looks like in this state. By taking these decisions away from expert physical therapists and giving it to a non-specific board of individuals, you would be choosing to lower the standard of practice for the physical therapy profession.

On a personal level, I want you to know that I pride myself on becoming a well educated, patient-centered clinician. I am a future doctor of physical therapy. I consider it my calling in life to assist patients throughout their healing processes and to help them reach their maximal potential. While I know that my request to maintain our current board may seem trivial to you, it has served physical therapists and their patients very well thus far, and it is very important that this state maintains the highest level of competence for the physical therapy profession. By removing the TBPTE, the responsibility to maintain these high standards is taken from expert physical therapists and given to individuals with little, or no knowledge of the physical therapy profession. Following through with this proposal will unquestionably jeopardize the high standards of care that this profession has diligently worked to establish. The TBPTE has efficiently and cost-effectively provided this state with entry-level testing for licensure that requires therapists to meet specific competencies. Furthermore, the TBPTE has effectively monitored our continuing education policies to ensure that physical therapists in Texas continue to expand their knowledge for the benefit of patients in their area of expertise.

Please do not jeopardize patients throughout the state of Texas by changing a system that clearly works well. I ask that you thoughtfully consider the importance of maintaining our TBPTE as an independent and efficient entity and oppose the consolidation to the TDLR. I truly appreciate your consideration in this matter as it is so important to my future patients that the quality of care available in Texas be maintained at the highest level.

Respectfully,

*Victoria Hieken*

UTMB Doctor of Physical Therapy Program  
Class of 2019 - Service Chair