

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Brittany Calame](#)
Subject: FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Friday, April 27, 2018 8:05:56 AM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Thursday, April 26, 2018 9:08 PM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Agency: TEXAS VETERANS COMMISSION TVC

First Name: Steven

Last Name: Hummer

Title: Lieutenant General US Marine Corps

Organization you are affiliated with: Retired

Email:

City: The Woodlands

State: Texas

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

The Sunset Commission staff report of TVC recommends Removing military service requirements for veteran county service officers to expand the pool of potential accredited claims counselors for Texas veterans.

I oppose this recommended initiative.

What is the problem to be solved? Is it the intent to increase the number of county service officers and to thereby expand the capacity of this service to veterans, or is there a dearth of veteran county service officers which the state is intent on filling with accredited county service officers but not veterans? Is this an effort to increase service to veterans or to solve a manpower problem?

Veterans understand veterans best. Veterans share similar cultures, language, perspective, and experiential challenges. One cannot be trained to the veteran experience without actually having the veteran experience by serving in the military. The Veteran County Service Officers make up a special organization who have preserved our countries freedoms through their military service and are distinguished by continuing to serve.

However, if the intent is to maintain the same levels of service while solving a human resources problem by filling billets with non-veterans, one could surmise that a decrease in quality of support would result. There are other means to solve the problem.

In the end, veterans serving veterans is the best option; why settle for less?

Also, the TVC should be required to have veteran claims counselors just as the county service officers.

Thank you.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: If the intent is to increase the number of county service officers serving veterans, hire and train more veterans. If so, this is a laudable effort since currently our veteran county service officers are routinely providing serge efforts to take care of our wonderful veterans. Texas has the largest percentage of veterans in the country living in this state. Pursue veterans for the positions through advertising

and marketing. Though veteran unemployment is the lowest in over a decade, the importance of having a veteran as a county service officer is such that an earnest effort should be put forth to hire veterans.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree