

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Janet Wood](#); [Brittany Roberson](#)
Subject: FW: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Private/Before Publication)
Date: Friday, June 06, 2014 8:16:24 AM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Friday, June 06, 2014 12:34 AM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Private/Before Publication)

Submitted on Friday, June 6, 2014 - 00:33

Agency: HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION HHSC

First Name: Kit

Last Name: Jones

Title: Licensed Professional Counselor

Organization you are affiliated with: LPC in Private Practice and Member Texas Counseling Association,

City: Fort Worth

State: Texas

Your Comments or Concerns:

I am a master's degree prepared graduate of Southern Methodist University and University of North Texas and a Licensed Professional Counselor in Texas. I am very concerned that my profession--as well as those of Marriage and Family Therapists, and Social Workers--not have our licensing boards reconstituted as advisory boards in a reshuffle under the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation. My opposition to such a change is due to the following:

>Recommendation 3.2 places the public at risk. The regulatory oversight provided by the Texas State Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors which includes licensed professional counselors as well as public members ensures that all LPCs are well trained and adhere to high professional standards. The impact of LPCs on the health and safety of the clients they serve mandates the oversight of an independent regulatory board that includes experienced licensed professionals.

>Unlike the other professions recommended for transfer to the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation in Recommendation 3.2, Licensed Professional Counselors, Marriage and Family Therapists and Social Workers must hold advanced graduate degrees and are considered Health Professions under Texas law. None of the occupations currently licensed by TDLR are required to hold even a bachelor's degree.

Your Proposed Solution:

I OPPOSE recommendation 3.2 to transfer the Texas State Board of Examiners to the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation, reducing this independent board to an advisory committee.

Allow these highly specialized and trained health care professions' licensing boards to continue as independent boards of the Texas State Board of Examiners as currently constituted: Licensed Professional Counselors, Marriage and Family Therapists, and Social Workers.

My Comments Will Not Be Made Public: I agree