

**From:** [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)  
**To:** [Cecelia Hartley](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Retain TBPE as and Independent State Agency  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 29, 2016 8:03:04 AM

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**From:** Kim, Laura E.  
**Sent:** Monday, November 28, 2016 10:00 PM  
**To:** Sunset Advisory Commission  
**Subject:** Retain TBPE as and Independent State Agency

Dear Mr. Ken Levine,

I am a third year student physical therapist on my last few semesters before graduating in August of 2017 with my doctorate in physical therapy. As such, my professional interest has been especially peaked with the news of the consolidation of the TBPE into the TDLR. While I cannot admit to any grand expertise on the matter, I do find the concept disheartening and the prospect of being licensed in Texas has lost a bit of its luster.

Firstly, let me clearly state I am opposed to the consolidation of the TBPE into the TDLR, and I would appreciate it if the Texas government would retain the TPTE as an independent state agency for the next dozen years. Efficiency is a wonderful concept, but consolidation of the largest small health licensing agency, per licenses and registrations, might not be as smooth and polished as the Sunset Advisory Commission Staff Report claims, particularly if the profession is highly opposed and infighting already exists between the medical professions being shove together. The transition will most likely cost more while bringing poorer service. The section regarding the advisory boards caught my attention, and though the transition seems gradual and painless, I do not see the struggle for practice guidelines becoming any less of a threat to my profession as a doctor of physical therapy once the transition is complete. In fact, the opportunity to strip our physical therapy profession further would be even easier. Other professions, even medical ones and even medical doctors, do not know the extent of our practice like we do. I have received referrals quite frequently with either vague or incorrect medical diagnoses or with directions inconsistent with what is beneficial to the patient because the physician had no idea what physical therapy could do for the patient. I fail to see how this is safe for our patients. If they do not understand our role in the healthcare model, councilors will not either. I understand wanting to keep Texas patient's safe, but does this mean we must toss aside the independent spirit of being a Texas physical therapist when we have our patient's safety at heart?

In closing, I do not write an email about this topic lightly, and I prefer to stay out of politics unless the subject matter is near and dear to me, which this is. I suppose 2016 has been a year to stoke the flames of advocacy and political involvement at all levels. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
Laura Kim, SPT  
UTMB DPT Class of 2017