

**From:** [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)  
**To:** [Brittany Roberson](#); [Janet Wood](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)  
**Date:** Thursday, June 05, 2014 1:26:57 PM

---

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]  
Sent: Thursday, June 05, 2014 1:26 PM  
To: Sunset Advisory Commission  
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Thursday, June 5, 2014 - 13:26

Agency: DEPARTMENT STATE HEALTH SERVICES DSHS

First Name: Le'Ann

Last Name: Solmonson

Title: Director of Counselor Education Programs, LPC-S

Organization you are affiliated with: Stephen F. Austin State University, Texas Counseling Association

City: Nacogdoches

State: Texas

Your Comments About the Staff Report, Including Recommendations Supported or Opposed: I am writing to oppose Recommendation 3.2 that would eliminate the Texas State Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors and move the regulation of our profession to the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation. As a mental health professional who works with the public, it is critical that we have a separate board that fully understands the profession and assures excellence in training and practice. If you have ever attended a hearing of the Complaints Committee, you would understand the importance of the combination of trained counseling professionals and public members providing oversight. The other professions that are regulated by the Texas Department of Licensure and Regulation do not require a masters degree and may not even require a college degree. In addition, they are not considered by Texas Law as health professionals. To think that one board could provide the depth of knowledge necessary to provide oversight to such a wide variety of professions is unrealistic. The TSBEP has a history of ensuring the public safety of clients, as well as remaining current on issue relevant to the practice of counseling. They are vital to maintaining the status of professional counseling in Texas.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: It is my understanding that the TSBEP is financially self-sufficient. They have been essential to the regulation of professional counselors. My recommendation would be to maintain the current structure.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree