

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Janet Wood](#)
Subject: FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Tuesday, June 28, 2016 8:31:34 AM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Monday, June 27, 2016 10:10 PM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Agency: TEXAS BOARD PHYSICAL THERAPY EXAMINERS

First Name: Laura

Last Name: Lawhon

Title: Kinesiotherapist

Organization you are affiliated with: American Kinesiotherapy Association

Email:

City: Houston

State: Texas

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on June 23, 2016 regarding the request to strike "kinesiotherapist" as an equivalent term to "physical therapist" in the Texas Physical Therapy Practice Act. It was very rewarding to hear civil discourse in the public arena during the political process of enacting and amending legislation to serve the Texas public.

I would like to add a few thoughts to my testimony. As you may be hearing from other kinesiotherapists, the scope of practice of a KT only includes exercise as a primary means of rehabilitation. If exercise professionals are to be regulated, then the TX PT Practice Act should also include personal trainers, exercise physiologists, health coaches, strength coaches (such as the ones who work with my son's college baseball team), physical education teachers, group exercise instructors and others.

In fact, as part of my curriculum at Texas A&M in the early 80s, when I was studying to be a corrective therapist (prior to the name change to kinesiotherapist in 1987), my coursework included how to adapt Physical Education lesson plans so that children with disabilities could be mainstreamed into PE classes, in accordance with Public Law 94-142. I even adapted the sport of Ultimate (often called Ultimate Frisbee) for wheelchair users. You may also have read about the results of many studies indicating that exercise is as effective a treatment for depression as medication.

In short, the kinesiotherapist is perfectly suited to address the needs of Texans of all ages, and most specifically those who have lost functional independence as a result of age-related muscle loss or deconditioning from prolonged illness, such as cancer. Our education programs are accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs.

Graduates must pass a registration exam and provide proof of annual continuing education in order to use RKT (Registered Kinesiotherapist) after their name.

Again, I request on behalf of myself, my fellow KT's in Texas, and the American Kinesiotherapy Association that the term "kinesiotherapist" be removed as an equivalent term to "physical therapist" in the Texas Physical Therapy Practice Act.

Thank you for your time and efforts on behalf of Texas citizens.

Sincerely,
Laura Lawhon, RKT, CI

Houston, TX

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: As above, I request that the term "kinesiotherapist" be removed as an equivalent term to "physical therapist" in the Texas Physical Therapy Practice Act.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree