

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Janet Wood](#); [Brittany Roberson](#)
Subject: FW: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Thursday, June 05, 2014 8:01:56 AM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Wednesday, June 04, 2014 10:28 PM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Wednesday, June 4, 2014 - 22:28

Agency: DEPARTMENT STATE HEALTH SERVICES DSHS

First Name: Melanie

Last Name: Royal

Title: Licensed Dyslexia Therapist

Organization you are affiliated with: LEAD, Inc. (Qualified Instructor); Tarleton State University (Adjunct Instructor); ALTA - Self-employed

City: Stephenville,

State: Texas

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

I am writing in opposition to the recommendation that licensure for dyslexia therapists and practitioners be abolished. I have worked with students with dyslexia for over twenty years, a majority of that time in public schools.

Dyslexia, a neurologically-based disorder, affects up to 20% of the general population. Research has shown however, through appropriate remediation, delivered by a person trained in specific multisensory, structured language therapy, a person with dyslexia can become a literate, functioning member of society. Persons who deliver this instruction have completed intensive training through accredited training programs and are experts in the field.

Licensing is necessary to indicate the level of scientifically-based training to the consumer (i.e. public schools, private schools, parents, individuals with dyslexia). Additionally, as of the 82nd Legislature, higher education is now mandated to include dyslexia in its teacher preparation courses. As an adjunct reading professor, I lecture on the components of multisensory, structured language therapy to pre-service teachers in order to prepare them to identify the characteristics of dyslexia in their future students. Many of these undergraduates have expressed a desire to learn more about this population, therefore the number of therapists entering the profession is likely to increase.

I respectfully request you reconsider the abolishment of the licensing of dyslexia therapists and practitioners due to the impact it will have on the quality of instruction students with dyslexia receive and deserve. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: I would like to see not only licensure of dyslexia

therapists and practitioners continue but also a requirement that every public school in the State of Texas be required to have a licensed person employed in their school district.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree