

Thank you for your efforts and time involved in reviewing our state agencies effectiveness.

As an interested and involved dentist of 28 years, I appreciate the ability to share my thoughts on the sunset review of TSBDE.

I am in agreement that licensing should be a priority concern for TSBDE. There are many dentists coming in from other states to our great state mainly due to our better economy. I believe monitoring and researching the applicants' history and service is important before allowing their Texas licensure. With this emphasis of greater research, I might suggest maintaining 15 TSBDE members to ensure effectiveness. As well, I hope, we can continue to have a majority of TSBDE members as dentists along with the input of dental hygienists, dental assistants and lay persons. The dentists have the interest of the dentists, sworn allegiance to protecting our public and would have the heart to manage and address the concerns of the future.

I also note your concern about regulation of dental assistants. As a prior director of a dental assisting school, I was personally aware of the concerns the dental assistant students had with certification and monies involved. Yet with the completion of a sequence of steps I was able to identify which students would be good employees and eager learners. Therefore, I feel our dental assistants need some regulatory guidelines and certifications through the TSBDE.

Next, thank you for addressing anesthesia and the lack of enforcement tools for the protection of the public. At this time, anesthesia needs to stay in the hands of those who have been trained and certified. I know there will be a day that our dental schools will be training more individuals in the art, science and skill of anesthesia.

I welcome your questions and any concerns that I may have generated in the expression of this letter.

Sincerely,

Danette McNew, DDS
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