

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Cecelia Hartley](#)
Subject: FW: Sunset Review
Date: Monday, November 28, 2016 11:39:58 AM

From: Francisco Melendez
Sent: Monday, November 28, 2016 11:37 AM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Sunset Review

To whom it may concern,

My name is Francisco Melendez I am a practicing physical therapist in El Paso, Texas. I obtained my Doctor of Physical Therapy degree in December 2012 at the University of Texas at El Paso. I became a Board Certified Clinical Specialist in Orthopedic Physical Therapy in May 2015. It has been a pleasure to work in the El Paso area in an outpatient physical therapy clinic. I really enjoy patient care and helping people return to their previous level of function after a traumatic injury or series of chronic pain.

I am aware that the Texas Board of Physical Therapy Examiners being consolidated into the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) is a topic of discussion in the upcoming sunset review.

I am writing this email to personally voice my opinion against such consolidation for the following 2 reasons. First, the physical therapy profession has evolved and advanced into a clinical Doctoral profession. Our practice involves much more than exercise prescription. We engage clients on a regular basis and provide skilled services such as manual therapy, gait training, neuromuscular re-education to eliminate pain and increase physical function to increase quality of life. It is unacceptable that our practicing license as well as practice act rules be regulated by a department of individuals with minimal healthcare experience and anatomy and physiology knowledge. These two components are crucial in the rehabilitation of our clients and as Physical Therapist we are the experts in musculoskeletal impairments and the rehabilitation process.

Secondly, the Texas Board of Physical Therapy Examiners (TBPE) has done an excellent job. It has a good rapport with the Physical Therapy schools across the state of Texas. The schools are familiarized with the license application and are able to facilitate the new graduates during this key transitional process of becoming a licensed professional. Furthermore, The TBPE is a cost-efficient and operationally effective state-agency. License renewal is clear, simple and efficient which facilitates the continuity for a skilled professional to continue to practice at his/her workplace without interruptions. Consolidation into the TDLR would increase cost decrease efficiency in obtaining and renewing licenses. It would also require a

significant amount of time for the TDLR to build a strong rapport with the Physical Therapy schools in Texas, resulting in decreased efficiency for new graduates to obtain a license. There is already a shortage of Physical Therapist nationwide and statewide that decreasing the efficiency of new Licensees would decrease the quality of health care in this great state of Texas.

Thank you for your time and attention in considering my opinion at this next sunset review hearing.

Francisco Melendez, PT, DPT, OCS
Border Therapy Services