

From: [Elizabeth Jones](#)
To: [Janet Wood](#)
Subject: FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Monday, November 30, 2020 8:03:59 AM

From: sunset@sunset.texas.gov On Behalf Of Texas Sunset Commission
Sent: Wednesday, November 25, 2020 11:20:34 AM (UTC-06:00) Central Time (US & Canada)
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Agency: TEXAS HOLOCAUST AND GENOCIDE COMMISSION

First Name: David

Last Name: Patterson

Title: Professor

Organization you are affiliated with: University of Texas at Dallas

Email: david.patterson@utdallas.edu

City: Dallas

State: Texas

Your Comments About the Staff Report, Including Recommendations Supported or Opposed: I am very much opposed any suggestion in the staff report that might lead to the abolishment of the Texas Holocaust and Genocide Commission (THGC).

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: I recommend that the THGC not only continue but that its budget be increased. In 2019 the Texas legislature mandated that Texas schools find ways to observe Holocaust Remembrance Week. The THGC has been instrumental in seeing to it that the mandate--the law--be followed; does the state want its law to be followed?

The THGC is the only body at the state government level that has among its members specialists--published scholars--not only on the Holocaust and genocide but also on antisemitism and racism. Will the state turn its back on these increasingly pressing issues? Finally there is the issue of optics in these hypersensitive times if the THGC were to be eliminated, some individuals might wonder whether some antisemitic sentiments were behind it, since it would mean the official removal of a body charged with, among other things, the remembrance of and education about the extermination of the Jews of Europe. As one of six states that have a state commission of this kind, I hope that Texas can continue to be one of the nation's leaders in this important matter

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree