

April 22, 2016

To: Sunset Advisory Commission

Regarding: Commission's Report on Texas Board of Physical Therapy Examiners Continuing Education Approvals

Dear SAC Members,

I am a practicing physical therapist in the state of Texas and am continually seek out high quality educational opportunities. There are copious courses offered and often there is a question as to if the education truly represents evidence based practice as well as topics that are related to the practice of physical therapy, or are at the level of post professional education. Many course offered from out of the state of Texas often do not appear to meet this criteria. I feel confident that with the TPTA – Continued Competence Approval Program we have highly qualified physical therapists that are critically reviewing applications for approval in Texas. I am not sure that the TBPTE has the personnel qualified or that has the time to perform this task at the high quality that the TPTA CCAP members have been doing for the past years.

I believe the TBPTE should be able to delegate the continued competence approval process to those they feel most qualified to complete approvals in a timely and cost effective manner. The TPTA CCAP, via therapists reviewing and approving only those courses that meet the requirements, provides public protection by ensuring that PT's and PTA's in Texas are receiving education/competence units only for qualified continuing competence courses. The approval process needs to be completed by those most qualified to assess that the courses meet best practice standards.

I ask that you allow the TBPTE to retain the ability to delegate the continued competence review and approval processes.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my request. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Colette Pientok, PT, DPT, OCS, CFMT