

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Janet Wood](#)
Subject: FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Wednesday, November 16, 2016 12:11:44 PM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Wednesday, November 16, 2016 11:40 AM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Agency: TEXAS STATE BOARD SOCIAL WORKER EXAMINERS

First Name: Maegan

Last Name: Pollack

Title:

Organization you are affiliated with:

Email:

City: Richardson

State: Texas

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

I strongly oppose relegating the Texas State Board of Social Worker Examiners (as well as the Licensing boards for Professional Counselors and Marriage and Family Therapists) to advisory status under the TDLR. Oversight of mental health professionals is beyond the scope of TDLR and may adversely impact consumer protection along all industries that it regulates just based on sheer number of industries to manage. None of the current industries under TDLR work with individuals with psycho, social, developmental or educational challenges, therefore the TDLR would not be an improvement on the current licensing board structure and may further weaken oversight of mental health industries it manages because of a lack of familiarity.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: My recommendation is to retain the current structure of licensing boards for Social Workers, Professional Counselors and Marriage and Family Therapists. Setting clear, ethical training and boundaries for these boards can only be done when they are individually specialized for the industries they represent. The best practice to protect consumers is to have independent, specialized boards with members that can appropriately regulate mental health care. I also recommend having licensing fees specifically go to the licensing board that the person is a member of rather than a general fund. This will allow specialized management for that licensing board and provide the staffing needed to maintain appropriate oversight, if only based solely on numbers of licensees.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree