

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Brittany Roberson](#); [Janet Wood](#)
Subject: FW: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Thursday, June 05, 2014 12:50:53 PM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Thursday, June 05, 2014 10:56 AM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Thursday, June 5, 2014 - 10:55

Agency: DEPARTMENT STATE HEALTH SERVICES DSHS

First Name: Richard

Last Name: Henriksen Jr

Title: Licensed Professional Counselor Supervisor

Organization you are affiliated with: Texas Counseling Association

City: Huntsville

State: Texas

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

Dear Texas Sunset Review Committee,

I am writing in opposition to proposed Recommendation 3.2 that would transfer the Texas State Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors to the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation and reconstitute this independent board as an advisory committee.

Recommendation 3.2 places the public at risk. The regulatory oversight provided by the Texas State Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors which includes licensed professional counselors as well as public members ensures that all LPCs are well trained and adhere to high professional standards. The impact of LPCs on the health and safety of the clients they serve mandates the oversight of an independent regulatory board that includes experienced licensed professionals. As a member of the counseling profession, I am in full support of the board and its authority to regulate the counseling profession. It provides an important service for all of the citizens of Texas.

Unlike the other professions recommended for transfer to the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation in Recommendation 3.2, Licensed Professional Counselors, Marriage and Family Therapists and Social Workers must hold advanced graduate degrees and are considered Health Professions under Texas law. None of the occupations currently licensed by TDLR are required to hold even a bachelor's degree.

In an effort to provide the citizens of the State of Texas with the highest and most effective level of services it would be to the benefit of our citizens to leave in place the Texas State Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors. I hope that as you continue the work of the Sunset Review Committee that you will focus on the need of the citizens and not follow Recommendation 3.2.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: I would like to recommend that the Texas State Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors remain in its current format so that it can continue to provide effective oversight of Professional Counselors.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree