

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Cecelia Hartley](#)
Subject: FW: Opposition of the consolidation of the Texas Board of Occupational Therapy Examiners (TBOTE) into the Texas Department of Licensing and Registration (TDLR)
Date: Tuesday, November 29, 2016 1:55:16 PM

From: Sherri Rhein
Sent: Tuesday, November 29, 2016 1:48 PM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Opposition of the consolidation of the Texas Board of Occupational Therapy Examiners (TBOTE) into the Texas Department of Licensing and Registration (TDLR)

My name is Sherri Rhein, and I am a occupational therapist residing and working in Austin, Texas in the public schools. As a resident of Travis county, I am writing to oppose of the consolidation of the Texas Board of Occupational Therapy Examiners (TBOTE) into the Texas Department of Licensing and Registration (TDLR).

It is important that occupational therapists be held to the highest ethical and clinical standards including high-quality continuing education. Provision of therapy services in the public schools should not only be safe and effective, but also provide students with research based interventions. The TBOTE board sets and maintains criteria and monitoring of continuing education in a cost efficient manner to insure a consistent standard.

While I understand the consolidation may seem reasonable to someone outside of the field of occupational therapy, I have no confidence that the integrity of my field will be maintained. Only experts in my field of occupational therapy should make decisions regarding what quality occupational therapy looks like in this state. By taking these decisions away from the TBOTE and giving it to an non-specific board of individuals, you would be choosing to lower the standard of practice for the occupational therapy profession. it is very important that this state maintains the highest level of competence for the occupational therapy profession. By removing the TBOTE, the responsibility to maintain these high standards is taken from occupational therapists and given to individuals with little, or no knowledge of my profession. Following through with this proposal will unquestionably jeopardize the high standards of care.

Please do not jeopardize the care I provide to students by changing a system that clearly works. Please consider the importance of maintaining our TBOTE as an independent and efficient entity and oppose the consolidation to the TDLR.

Respectfully,
Sherri Rhein OT
Austin Texas

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Sherri Rhein, OT

AISD Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy Team

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