

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Cecelia Hartley](#)
Subject: FW: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Thursday, October 16, 2014 8:07:13 AM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Wednesday, October 15, 2014 10:19 PM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Wednesday, October 15, 2014 - 22:18

Agency: HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION HHSC

First Name: Emily

Last Name: Rogers

Title:

Organization you are affiliated with: Children's Policy Council

Email:

City: Austin

State: Texas

Your Comments About the Staff Report, Including Recommendations Supported or Opposed: I am writing to oppose the recommendations set forth in Issue 13 of the HHSC and System Issues Staff Report, particularly the recommendations that the Task Force for Children with Special Needs, the Children's Policy Council, the Council on Children and Families, and the Texas System of Care Consortium be removed from statute and brought under a single committee to address the needs of children with special needs. There is not a single type of child with special needs. The category "special needs" encompasses a broad range of human experience with diverse and even potentially conflicting interests. The existence of separate committees provides multiple avenues for these diverse points of view to be expressed and for commonalities, when they exist, to be amplified. To insist that one voice can represent what is termed "special needs" does a disservice to the people whose interests are being represented by the committees in question. The costs borne by the State and the volunteers who serve on the committees are small in comparison to the returns that come in the form of increased citizen engagement and advocacy on behalf of children.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: Maintain the current committee structure in statute to allow for diverse and even competing opinions to be heard.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree