

October 31, 2014

Mr. Ken Levine
Director, Sunset Advisory Commission
1501 N. Congress
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Sir,

I am writing regarding the Sunset Staff Report on the Health and Human Services Commission and System Issues. First, let me say I appreciate the time and effort the Sunset Committee obviously put into researching their recommendations. I understand this is was a huge undertaking and their dedication is unquestioned.

I very simply ask that you not accept the changes as outlined in Section 1.1 of the Sunset Advisory Report relating to the consolidation of the five HHS system agencies into one agency. From an end-user's point of view, the consolidation seriously jeopardizes the specialized services and focus necessary to truly serve your constituency, which includes me.

I am visually impaired and currently working at the San Antonio Lighthouse for the Blind. My personal experience is that blind services require a specialized, trained management and leadership to ensure success...it requires in-depth understanding to administer appropriate training – a “one-size fits all” approach simply will not work. I understand the need to strategically plan and implement responsible and cost-cutting practices; however it is also imperative that we include adequate, efficient systems to ensure all qualifying consumers are given the opportunity to have their needs met, allowing them the independence to lead a full life.

I urge you to consider the adverse effects of consolidating to the point where specialized services that are currently being provided are diminished by employing those who aren't fully aware of methods and techniques.

Sincerely,