

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Janet Wood](#)
Subject: FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Monday, November 14, 2016 8:14:31 AM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Friday, November 11, 2016 3:17 PM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Agency: TEXAS STATE BOARD EXAMINERS PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS

First Name: Leslie

Last Name: Schriever

Title:

Organization you are affiliated with:

Email:

City: Austin

State: Texas

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

I would like for the advisory commission to continue the autonomous regulation of licensed professional counselors, marriage and family counselors and social workers. I very strongly oppose the recommendation to relegate the Texas State Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors and the other mental health professional licensing boards to advisory status under the over-extended Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR). This would be a travesty to professionals in a field that requires many years of post-graduate education in order to become licensed. Our profession should not be grouped in a regulatory capacity with other licensees who are not required to have Masters or Doctoral degrees plus 2-4 years of post-graduate internship in order to be licensed.

It is clear that oversight of mental health professionals is beyond the scope of TDLR. None of the occupations regulated by TDLR work with psychologically fragile individuals struggling to overcome devastating psycho, social, emotional and physical challenges. A move to TDLR will not resolve access to care or regulatory challenges. I very strongly urge you to reconsider.

Allocate licensing fee revenue to directly support the regulatory functions of the Texas State Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors. Issues #2 and #3 would be moot had the Texas Department of State Health Services allocated funds generated by licensing fees to support the regulatory functions of the Texas State Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors as well as the boards that regulate Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists and Social Workers.

This is very important: TDLR is not equipped to regulate mental and behavioral health professionals. Expanding the scope of TDLR beyond its mission is likely to adversely impact consumer protection across all the industries it regulates and risk its efficiency.

I urge you to retain the structure and autonomy of the Texas State Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors as well as the TSBEMFT and the TSBESW.

Setting and enforcing clear, ethical training and practice standards for mental health professionals can only be accomplished by professionally specialized and independent licensing boards. Best practice to protect consumers is to have Independent, professionally specialized boards with public members that regulate mental health care. Mental health care is vitally important to our community and would be inadequately regulated.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency:

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My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree