

**From:** [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)  
**To:** [Trisha Linebarger](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 9, 2018 10:21:47 AM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]  
Sent: Wednesday, May 9, 2018 10:08 AM  
To: Sunset Advisory Commission <[Sunset@sunset.texas.gov](mailto:Sunset@sunset.texas.gov)>  
Subject: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Agency: DEPARTMENT PUBLIC SAFETY DPS

First Name: Colleen

Last Name: Sheehey-Church

Title: National President

Organization you are affiliated with: Mothers Against Drunk Driving

Email: [frank.harris@madd.org](mailto:frank.harris@madd.org)

City: Irving

State: Texas

Your Comments About the Staff Report, Including Recommendations Supported or  
Opposed:  
May 9, 2018

MADD opposes DPS Sunset Issue 5 deregulating providers of ignition interlocks devices

Dear Texas Sunset Commission Members,

Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) urges you oppose Department of Public Safety (DPS) Sunset Issue 5, which would halt State oversight of the providers of ignition interlock devices. An ignition interlock is a device about the size of a cell phone that is wired into the ignition system of a vehicle. A convicted drunk driver must blow into the device in order to start their vehicle. If they have a measurable amount of alcohol in their system, the vehicle will not start.

Texas lawmakers made significant improvements to the drunk driving ignition interlock law in 2015 with HB 2246 and in 2017 with HB 3016. These laws will surely save lives and help stop the scourge of drunk driving. However, the proposed sunset undermine these lifesaving laws by creating a Wild West where anything goes for ignition interlock devices.

Texas DPS rightfully regulates this industry to ensure public safety. DPS has 17 certified manufacturers, 25 certified ignition interlock devices and 560 service centers throughout Texas. Without regulation, bad interlock vendors will begin providing less reputable devices, which will lead to successful circumvention attempts and in-turn more drunk driving on Texas roadways.

MADD supports ignition interlocks for all convicted drunk drivers as these devices are effective in changing behavior. According to the CDC, interlocks are effective in reducing repeat drunk driving offenses 67 percent.

Texas is one of 32 states with an all-offender ignition interlock law as any arrested drunk driver can go an interlock occupational license following arrest or choose not to drive. Since September 2005, Judges are required to order ignition interlocks for all repeat offenders for first-time offenders with a BAC of .15 or greater as a condition of probation.

Interlocks are working to stop drunk driving in Texas. As of August 2016, there were 47,220 interlocks installed in Texas. Between December 2006 and December 2017, interlocks stopped 274,479 attempts to drive drunk in Texas, including 29,488 last year alone.

MADD believes deregulating the providers of these devices will have devastating consequences for public safety. The devastating consequences arise from bad interlock vendor actors providing subpar devices which will provide more drunk drivers an opportunity to circumvent the device. The current robust interlock device regulations in Texas ensure that these devices have strong anti-circumvention features. Without such DPS oversight, the quality and reliability of the ignition interlocks will hinder the lifesaving interlock law.

MADD urges you to oppose DPS Sunset Issue 5. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact MADD Director of State Government Affairs Frank Harris [frank.harris@madd.org](mailto:frank.harris@madd.org) or 202-688-1194. Thank you in advance for your prompt consideration of this important request.

Sincerely,

Colleen Sheehey-Church  
MADD National President

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: MADD opposes DPS Sunset Issue 5 deregulating providers of ignition interlocks devices

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree