

**From:** [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)  
**To:** [Cecelia Hartley](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Comments regarding plans to consolidate TBPTE into TDLR  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 29, 2016 8:04:31 AM

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**From:** Smith, Allison Marie [mailto:Allison.Smith@harrishealth.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 28, 2016 7:20 PM  
**To:** Sunset Advisory Commission  
**Subject:** Comments regarding plans to consolidate TBPTE into TDLR

My name is Allison Smith and I am a physical therapist living in Houston, Texas. I am writing to request that you oppose the consolidation of the TBPTE into the TDLR and retain the TBPTE as an independent state agency for the next 12 years.

The decision to retain the TBPTE, which was recommended on multiple occasions by the Sunset staff, is beneficial and necessary to ensure quality health care and safety for Texas residents. The TBPTE is a cost-efficient, effective, and well-managed state agency. This board has provided physical therapists with entry-level testing for licensure that requires therapists to meet a minimal competency, and it has also been monitoring our continuing education to ensure that Texas physical therapists are maintaining and expanding on the skills needed to safely and effectively treat patients in their area of practice.

While I understand that consolidation may seem reasonable to someone outside of the field of physical therapy, in reality TDLR consolidation will cost more, deliver less, and reduce the standard of patient safety in Texas. TDLR Commissioners do not have the requisite medical knowledge or health care experience to make appropriate decisions regarding physical therapy practice. Clinical care should not only be safe and effective but should also provide patients with expert, researched-based treatments that exceed that of basic practice. By allowing TDLR Commissioners to make decisions regarding physical therapy practice, when they are not involved in hands-on patient care, do not know current standards and evidence-based medicine, and do not have the appropriate medical knowledge, will degrade the profession of physical therapy and could potentially harm our patients.

On a personal level, I want you to know that I pride myself on being a well-educated, patient centered clinician. I have both my doctorate in physical therapy as well as board certification in orthopedics (which is my area of practice) and utilize my knowledge in both an outpatient clinical setting every day. While it may not seem like consolidation is a big deal, the TBPTE has served me and my patients very well thus far and it is very important to me that we maintain a high standard. By taking the decision-making abilities from physical therapists and giving it to individuals with little to no knowledge of physical therapy, you are jeopardizing the level of care that my patients may receive.

Please do not jeopardize our patients throughout the state of Texas by changing a system that not only works, but works well. I ask that you thoughtfully consider the importance of maintaining our TBPTE as an independent and efficient entity and oppose the consolidation to the TDLR. I truly appreciate your consideration in this matter as it is so important to my patients that the quality of care available in Texas be maintained at the highest level.

Respectfully,

Allison Smith, PT, DPT, OCS

Physical Therapist  
Orthopedic Clinical Specialist  
Harris Health System  
[Allison.Smith@harrishealth.org](mailto:Allison.Smith@harrishealth.org)

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