

April 18, 2016

RE: Sunset Advisory Commission Staff Report: State Board of Dental Examiners

I recently received and have read the full report issued April 2016. Thank you for your hard work I realize what an important task this is. Please let me comment on Issue 1: The Unusually Large Dental Board Inappropriately Focuses on Issues Unrelated to Its Public Safety Mission. The practice of dentistry is defined by the Texas Occupations Code Title 3. Health Professions Sec. 251.002 "a person practices dentistry if the person: (4) owns, maintains, or operates an office or place of business which the person employs or engages under any type of contract another person to practice dentistry". It was pointed out in the report that the board focused on "ill-fated rule packages.....regarding dental office ownership arrangements". How disappointing it was to see this issue in my opinion totally mischaracterized. It is with very good reason and foresight that dentist's contract with other dentists not with corporate entities. As a dentist and a "stakeholder" who lives and works in her community, my interest is and has always been to protect my patients. I am saddened to see how effective these well-funded corporate lobbyists and lawyers have been able to reframe this issue. The evidence is clear from the Church Street bankruptcies to the deposition of 2 dentists who admit the deception that surround these arrangements. Quite simply, they are illegal and for very good reason. The Board must be on the forefront of protecting patients and Texas which is what needs to be done.

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