-----Original Message-----
From: sundrupal@capitol.local [mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local]
Sent: Tuesday, November 15, 2016 2:44 PM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Agency: TEXAS STATE BOARD SOCIAL WORKER EXAMINERS

First Name: Laurie

Last Name: Stephens

Title: LMSW-IPR

Organization you are affiliated with: NASW Texas

Email:

City: The Woodlands

State: Texas

Your Comments About the Staff Report, Including Recommendations Supported or
Opposed:
I would like to urge the Sunset Commission to continue the autonomous regulation of Licensed Social Workers.
I am opposed to the recommendation to relegate the Texas State Board of Social Worker Examiners to advisory status under the over-extended Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR).
I feel oversight of mental health professionals is beyond the scope of TDLR.
None of the occupations regulated by TDLR work with fragile individuals who are struggling with a variety of issues. A move to TDLR will not resolve access to care or regulatory challenges.
I STRONGLY urge the allocation of licensing fee revenue to directly support the regulatory functions of the Texas State Board of Social Worker Examiners.
I have personal examples of the incredibly long wait times for complaints against licensees to be resolved. This is unacceptable when peoples lives and careers are adversely effected until the matter is resolved. OUR Fees should go to OUR board to effectively address OUR issues.

Please retain the structure and autonomy of the Texas State Board of Social Worker Examiners. Setting and enforcing clear, ethical training and practice standards for Social Work professionals can only be accomplished by professionally specialized and independent licensing boards. The Code of Conduct and Code of Ethics for Social Workers is unique to mental health and requires peer to peer review in rule making and the complaint process.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: see my comments above

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree