-----Original Message-----
From: sundrupal@capitol.local [mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local]
Sent: Tuesday, November 15, 2016 9:37 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: Tracy

Last Name: Stephens

Title: Director of Social Services

Organization you are affiliated with:

Email:

City: Frisco

State: Texas

Your Comments About the Staff Report, Including Recommendations Supported or
Opposed: Dear Committee, I request that you continue the autonomous regulation of Licensed Social Workers. I Oppose 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 STRONGLY believe that 0versight of mental health professionals is beyond the scope of TDLR. NONE of the occupations regulated by TDLR work with 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.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency:
Please consider allocating licensing fee revenue to directly support the regulatory functions of the Texas State Board of Social Worker Examiners and furthermore 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.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree