From: Sunset Advisory Commission

To: <u>Janet Wood</u>

Subject: FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

**Date:** Tuesday, November 15, 2016 7:48:16 AM

----Original Message-----

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local]

Sent: Monday, November 14, 2016 10:40 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: Courtney

Last Name: Storment

Title: counselor

Organization you are affiliated with:

Email:

City: San Antonio

State: Texas

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

I am very concerned about the idea of moving LPC licensing under TDLR.

Counseling is a very specialized field that needs to be regulated by a board that has first-hand knowledge of the profession. Many of the issues put in front of the board are not "black and white". They require insight from individuals with experience in the field and a vested interest in the profession.

In our job as professional counselors, we deal with life and death situations. In the interest of consumer protection, we need a board of qualified professionals to regulate the profession.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: I recommend that the Texas State Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors and other mental health licensing boards maintain their current structure and autonomy. I also recommend licensing fees be allocated to support the regulatory functions of the Texas State Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree