From: Sunset Advisory Commission

To: <u>Janet Wood</u>

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

Date: Thursday, April 05, 2018 3:46:54 PM

----Original Message----

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

Sent: Thursday, April 05, 2018 2:46 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: Mauricio

Last Name: Verduzco

Title: Bilingual QMHP II

Organization you are affiliated with: Integral Care, St. Edwards University

Email: mauricio.verduzco@integralcare.org

City: austin

State: Texas

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

Dear Senator Birdwell,

I am an LPC/LMFT in training, I work in Austin, Texas through the LMHA Integral Care, working with a wide spectrum of the Austin community. I am writing in regard to the Sunset Bill that is up for further discussion that involves the Mental Health Care in Texas.

It is critically important that all therapists of all levels whether Psychiatrist, Psychologists, Social Workers or Psychotherapists are able to diagnose mental health disorders in order to reach the widest population in our wonderful state. With greater restrictions and reduction of our rights and privileges to treat our clientele completely we increase the risk that those who need our counseling services will not be able to retain them due to the increased cost and the limitations of professionals.

With Sandy Hook, Hurricane Harvey, our recent local bombing incident and all the others that have impacted our country in such a severe way and unfortunately "normalized" such horrific violence we need all the mental health professionals possible to reach as many citizens in need as possible.

While such a huge number of incidents have occurred it is unmeasurable how many have been prevented because individuals and families in need have sought counseling support and treatment.

I implore you to protect our privilege to practice to the fullest extent of our current license.

Thank you for your support,

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency:

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My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree