

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Cecelia Hartley](#)
Subject: FW: Opposition to the Health Licensing Consolidation Project
Date: Monday, November 28, 2016 2:12:05 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

From: Walk, Matthew E.
Sent: Monday, November 28, 2016 2:11 PM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Opposition to the Health Licensing Consolidation Project

Sunset Commission:

I would like to communicate my opposition to the inclusion of the Executive Council of Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Examiners (ECPTOTE) in the "Health Licensing Consolidation Project". I respectfully suggest the Sunset Commission remove the ECPTOTE from the proposed consolidation into the Texas Department of Licensing & Regulation (TDLR) and retain the effective and efficient structure of the ECPTOTE as an independent state agency until the next Sunset Review.

I hold a doctorate degree in physical therapy and live and work in San Antonio as a physical therapist and academician. I have practiced physical therapy in Texas for 10 years and continue to be concerned with the State's Legislative suppression on physical therapy services. While I do not believe there is any *intention* to do so from the Sunset Commission, I am concerned that if the ECPTOTE is included in the Health Licensing Consolidation Project, my profession will find more complicated and elaborate hurdles to bind our progress. With the majority of physical therapists now holding doctoral degrees, the profession of physical therapy has found a seat at the table in most circles in healthcare. Indeed, more and more organizations are looking to physical therapists to lead the way in conservative treatment for non-severe musculoskeletal issues and even serve in a gate-keeping role. However, legislative restrictions have kept Texan physical therapists from practicing at the top of their license for way too many years. I'm truly worried that this consolidation would add more layers to the legislative barriers we already have, by mandating the profession answer to a council that knows nothing about physical therapy. I understand that the Sunset Commission is looking for ways to be more effective, and I applaud that. However, as I read the report closely, it is obvious that the ECPTOTE is already operating with the utmost efficiency and the items identified as problems (fingerprint checks, consistent penalties, turnover risk) are easily addressed within the ECPTOTE and in fact may become more precarious if handed over to the TDLR. As a clinician, I know that when something is working well I should leave it alone, unless I want to potentially turn it into a problem. In other words, if it ain't broke, don't fix it. This is why I suggest excluding the ECPTOTE as is proposed for the State Board of Dental Examiners, Texas Medical Board, Texas Board of Pharmacy, and Texas Board of Nursing.

May you be wise and true in all your decision making this upcoming legislative session.

[Sincerely,](#)

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