

From: [Robert Romig](#)
To: [Janet Wood](#)
Subject: FW: Citizen comments on Texas Board of Examiners of Professional Psychologists sunset proposals
Date: Monday, December 12, 2016 5:03:55 PM

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From: Elizabeth G Walsh
Sent: Monday, December 12, 2016 5:02 PM
To: Robert Romig
Subject: Citizen comments on Texas Board of Examiners of Professional Psychologists sunset proposals

Dear Mr. Roming,

I am a psychology postdoctoral fellow and would like to comment on the proposed sunset committee recommendations regarding the licensure of professional psychologists.

Specifically, I would like to comment on the following:

1. The proposal to consolidate TSBEP with TDLR - I am strongly opposed to this proposal. As has been outlined by representatives of TSBEP and the Texas Psychological Association, TSBEP is a well functioning board that promptly handles licensure paperwork and promptly responds to complaints against licensees. Psychology is a specialized doctoral level profession and requires a specialized board.

2. The proposal to eliminate the postdoctoral year - As a current postdoctoral fellow, I am opposed to eliminating the requirement for the postdoctoral year. It is a national standard in the field of psychology, and ensures that psychologists, as doctoral level professionals, have gradually more independent opportunities to practice and to specialize within the field of psychology. It help ensures that we are on par with MDs and helps protect the public. **I would not have returned to practice in the state of Texas (I did my doctoral work at UT Austin but completed my clinical internship last year in Denver) unless I had been able to secure a postdoctoral fellowship here, as I knew that I wanted this additional year of specialized supervised training.**

3. The recommendation to eliminate the oral exam - Although I am affiliated with TPA, I cannot agree with their position on the proposal to eliminate the oral exam. Requiring the oral exam is undeniably a barrier to licensure in the state of TX. The licensure process is lengthy and costly, coming at the end of an economically challenging 6 years. Because it is only offered twice per year and is contingent on first passing other exams which must be scheduled

(and are often delayed by applicants due to their cost), it typically delays licensure for applicants. I also believe it is an unnecessary hurdle when applicants have been supervised by licensed psychologists, who have much more direct knowledge of their practice than examiners they only meet once. If applicants do not pass, they then have to wait 6 months and in this time cannot be employed as psychologists. Additionally, most states do not have an oral exam and thus it is a deterrent to prospective psychologists who may be thinking about practicing in Texas.

Thank you,

Elizabeth Walsh

Austin, TX

Elizabeth G. Walsh, Ph.D. | Postdoctoral Fellow

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