

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Cecelia Hartley](#)
Subject: FW: physical therapy sunset review
Date: Tuesday, November 29, 2016 4:26:27 PM

From: Vanessa White
Sent: Tuesday, November 29, 2016 2:41 PM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Re: physical therapy sunset review

To the Sunset Review Commission,

My name is Dr. Vanessa White. I am a physical therapist at Ben Taub General Hospital in the Texas Medical Center and an educator of future physical therapists at Texas Woman's University. I am writing to request that you do NOT consolidate Physical Therapists in Texas into the TDLR.

Physical therapists in Texas are currently licensed and managed by the Texas Board of Physical Therapy Examiners, or the TBPTE. This cost-efficient and effective state agency is run physical therapists who have the appropriate level of medical knowledge in order to effectively license and manage Physical Therapists in Texas. As doctors, we are required to obtain a bachelor's degree plus three years of graduate-level study in order to obtain our clinical doctorate. We have extensive training in clinical reasoning, differential diagnosis, and we are movement specialists.

If the TBPTE is consolidated into the TDLR, our profession and our patients will suffer. The TDLR does not have the level of medical knowledge nor sufficient understanding of physical therapy in order to appropriately manage and license physical therapists. Physical therapists work with people in hospitals, outpatient clinics, skilled nursing facilities, schools, homes, and nursing homes. We manage those with chronic and acquired neurological disorders such as stroke and brain injury; trauma from car accidents, falls, and sports injuries; and pelvic health such as pelvic pain and incontinence. We work with the very young and the very old, and those with chronic conditions such as Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, Down Syndrome, Autism, and Cerebral Palsy.

As doctors, we require a licensing agency that understands all of those conditions and settings who can appropriately and confidently provide licensing, management, and advocacy. Additionally, consolidation will cost the state and the taxpayers money and jobs by taking an agency that runs well now, dismantling it and moving it into the TDLR. Physical therapists and patients throughout Texas will suffer if TBPTE is consolidated into TLDR.

Please consider all Texans, both young and old, and retain the TBPTE in order to manage and license Doctors of Physical Therapy in Texas.

Thank you!

Dr. Vanessa White, PT, DPT
SLL Coordinator