

**From:** [Janet Wood](#)  
**To:** [Janet Wood](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Accommodations needed for Sunset Commission 2016-12-08 and 09  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 07, 2016 1:01:07 PM

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**From:** John Woodley  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 06, 2016 7:16 PM  
**To:** Cecelia Hartley  
**Subject:** Re: Accommodations needed for Sunset Commission 2016-12-08 and 09

I want to sign up for the Texas Medical Board public communication. to simply state that;

When someone suffers a personal injury, Doctors violate patients rights to choose their own attorney and choice of doctors by requiring patients to use an attorney of the doctor's choice or they will refuse medical care even if it is a follow up for an emergency room visit.

This becomes extremely apparent when a person is on fixed income such as people with disabilities, seniors and others with protected characteristics that need medical care with inability to pay up front. This requires an agreement between attorneys and doctors with a Letter of Protection which means doctors agree to be paid when personal injury case gets settled. Many attorneys that take personal injury cases also do not get paid until the case is settled.

Many may be on Medicare but denied Medicaid meaning they are required to pay large deductibles up front. This is disproportionately preventing those that fall under the protected characteristics from receiving treatment for personal injuries.

As a direct result personal injuries that could be temporary are becoming permanent with long term medical needs and a higher cost of treatments. This significantly increases the cost to taxpayers, burdens to the state of Texas and is inhumane.

I consider this to be a form of Medical Malpractice and a violation of the oaths doctors swear to to obtain a medical license. The "nil nocere" - do no harm, has been the de facto since the 5th century.

We need to do more to prevent these atrocities from occurring in the first place. I would like you to reach out to me to see what we can do together across multiple agencies to address these issues. you can contact me through my email at

Kind Regards,  
John Woodley  
Advocate for Disability Access