

Testimony for Sunset Commission
December 9, 2016

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Virginia
Young

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and committee members. My name is Virginia Young from The Woodlands, Texas. I am here to oppose the continuation of the Texas Medical Board in its current form and to oppose Texas joining the licensing compact. I also oppose added funding for the Physicians Health Program (PHP). I support the Right to Know Brief.

I am a concerned citizen with a pre-med background and graduate degree in health. I was born into a medical family and expected to attend medical school, but I found my beliefs were not fully in line with current medical practices. I simply could not justify borrowing a few hundred thousand dollars to be married to a profession that would be dictated by insurance and pharmaceutical special interests. I learned that I would not be working to do something FOR my patients but rather TO my patients. Since that decision was made I, myself, as well as family members, have suffered greatly at the hands of allopathic physicians following "acceptable standards of care". The aftermath was nothing short of horrific, and yet no physician knew what to do except to write more prescriptions. I was told I would be on pain meds for the rest of my life. I was told I should take SSRIs, anti-depressants. I was given antibiotics which only caused my health to further plummet. Please keep in mind that these doctors were also my friends. I am not here to point a finger at the physicians because from where I stand it is clear that many do indeed care yet their hands are tied.

My experiences lead me to form a support group for families who had experienced similar health outcomes. Some have found themselves bankrupt from their medical expenses with no end in sight. Some are turned away from medical care for declining some procedures and turning to more natural alternatives. Some families have experienced such extreme harassment that they feel they cannot speak up for fear of retribution. Parents using government funded health programs such as CHIP are not allowed to make choices for their children without risking the loss of their insurance and their health care.

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The revolving doors between the pharmaceutical industry, regulatory boards and health organizations, both public and private, has continued and cost people their health and in some cases their lives. I have lost several family members and countless friends to modern medicine. I do not have enough time today to share the details. People are being harmed and the doctors that care are watching their life long dreams end in tragedy, and they can say and do nothing. The patients are left saddled with the burden of proof. They are required to prove a product unsafe and ineffective rather than the manufacturer proving their product safe and effective. I may not be a physician but I can say that every prescription I was given caused more harm, much to my surprise. Alternative medicine was the only treatment that brought relief to my suffering. I never did take the pain pills.

Based on my personal experiences it is my opinion that the Texas Medical Board should be free from pharmaceutical ties and conflicts of interests. Alternative practitioners, such as chiropractors and naturopaths, should be placed in the Texas Medical Board, and the TMB should be sunsetted every two years. Practitioners should not fear the potential loss of their license and livelihood because they want to do what is right for their patients. Citizens should not live in fear of the medical system. I personally use alternative health care for my family, and I want it to be protected for future generations.

Virginia Kerr Young