

**From:** [Trisha Linebarger](#)  
**To:** [Trisha Linebarger](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)  
**Date:** Friday, October 21, 2016 4:21:21 PM

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-----Original Message-----

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]  
Sent: Friday, October 21, 2016 3:40 PM  
To: Sunset Advisory Commission  
Subject: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Agency: TEXAS BOARD NURSING TBN

First Name: Cindy

Last Name: Zolnierek

Title: Executive Director

Organization you are affiliated with: Texas Nurses Association

Email:

City: Austin

State: Texas

Your Comments About the Staff Report, Including Recommendations Supported or Opposed:

The Texas Nurses Association appreciates the hard work by the Sunset Commission staff in developing the recommendations for the Board of Nursing Sunset process.

TNA agrees with the recommendations in Issue 1, allowing Excelsior College's exception to expire and requiring the Board to develop educational qualifications for nursing programs. Authorizing the Board to set a baseline for all programs, including out-of-state programs, will help standardize the educational equivalency between nursing programs in Texas.

TNA agrees that the definitions of unprofessional conduct and good moral character should be updated. Disciplinary action should be updated as well to limit disciplinary actions to practice-related issues. The Board has been in a difficult position since the last Sunset Review, during which they were told that their discipline was too subjective. Now the pendulum has swung the other direction, and some nurses are being pulled into disciplinary action that may not need to be. We encourage the Sunset Commission to work with the Board of Nursing to address this issue in the best way possible.

TNA agrees with the recommendations in Issue 3 regarding TPAPN. TPAPN is run through the Texas Nurses Foundation, the 501(c)(3) arm of the Texas Nurses Association. TNA has already identified and begun working on many of the issues identified in the report. TPAPN has a new Program Director who is already working in tandem with the Board of Nursing to address outstanding issues, and the issues identified here. We expect that these issues will be addressed expeditiously, and we appreciate the cooperative work on the part of the Board to help us identify and solve these issues.

TNA appreciates the Sunset Commission staff's recommendation regarding approval of the enhanced Nurse Licensure Compact. Passage of this compact is vital to the nursing workforce because it allows nurses to move to Texas and helps to chip away at our looming nursing workforce shortage.

Finally, TNA agrees that the Board of Nursing should have more authority to regulate and monitor the prescribing of controlled substances by advanced practice registered nurses. The ability to monitor and enforce the laws and regulations under their purview is of paramount importance due to the rise in opioid addiction.

We appreciate the opportunity to make comments on the recommendations and look forward to working with the Commission and the Board of Nursing on these issues.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: None at this time

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree