

**From:** [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)  
**To:** [Dawn Roberson](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 25, 2014 4:35:15 PM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]  
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2014 2:17 PM  
To: Sunset Advisory Commission  
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Wednesday, June 25, 2014 - 14:16

Agency: DEPARTMENT AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES DADS

First Name: Norm

Last Name: Archibald

Title: Mayor

Organization you are affiliated with: City of Abilene, Texas

Email: norm.archibald@abilenetx.com

City: Abilene

State: Texas

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

Testimony from Abilene Mayor Norman Archibald Texas Sunset Commission - Sunset Commission Staff Report Department of Aging and Disability Services June 24-25, 2014

Chair Nelson, Vice Chair Price and members of the Texas Sunset Commission; my name is Norman Archibald and I am proud to serve as Mayor of the City of Abilene. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony regarding the Sunset Commission Staff report related to the Department of Aging and Disability Services.

As you know, Abilene and the region's families have been served by the Abilene State Supported Living Center since 1957 and is home to 363 residents and also employs over 1,300. The Abilene State Sponsored Living Center serves 18 counties; Brown, Callahan, Coleman, Comanche, Eastland, Erath, Hood, Johnson, Jones, McCulloch, Mills, Palo Pinto, Parker, San Saba, Shackelford, Somervell, Stephens and Taylor.

My comments will be directed to the Sunset Commission staff report recommending the closure of State Supported Living Centers and to the establishment of a State Supported Living Center Closure Commission.

First, it is imperative that the Abilene SSLC remain open as it is a vital component of our community and the communities it serves. We are proud of the work and care provided the individuals who call the facility home and the families whose members we care for. The Abilene SSLC includes the trained professionals that provide the appropriate resources and care needed by individuals at the Abilene SSLC.

Furthermore, the Sunset report does not establish whether the critical services needed are available to an individual or community should the Abilene SSLC close. This is important since in the absence of

these services there is no guarantee that individuals would transition well or into a safer environment or that the community would be ready for such a transition.

Secondly, I feel that the decision at any point as to which SSLC to close should remain the responsibility of the elected officials in the legislature.

This is imperative in order to continue and remain as open and transparent a process as necessary. That level of accountability is a necessity as the living conditions of so many is contemplated.

Finally, I feel that the criterion established in this recommendation to be followed by a State Supported Living Center Closure Commission is arbitrary.

More importantly, the criterion does not include the legislative oversight decisions of this magnitude should require. Leaving such decisions in the hands of the legislature would keep that oversight in the process.

Please know that the Abilene State Supported Living Center has played a critical role in our community and is a supported member of the community in Abilene and the area. There is strong involvement and support of the Abilene SSLC from the groups that understand what makes it so important to the individuals it serves.

I thank you again for the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of the City of Abilene. We understand that importance of the decisions needing to be made on such matters but hope that you will take into consideration my comments. We look forward to continued discussion on this matter.

Norm Archibald  
Mayor  
City of Abilene

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: See above

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree