



**Susan L. King**

State Representative

District 71

COUNTIES: TAYLOR, NOLAN & JONES

June 25, 2014

Senator Jane Nelson, Chair  
Representative Four Price, Vice Chair  
Members of the Sunset Advisory Commission

**Re: DADS Sunset Staff Issue 1, Recommendation 1.2: Establish the State Supported Living Center Closure Commission to evaluate the SSLCs and determine an additional five centers to close.**

Dear Madam Chair Nelson, Vice Chair Price and Members:

Thank you for the privilege of sitting amongst you for the past two days as we parsed the complexity of the Sunset Advisory Commission's Staff Report on DADS. It is apparent to me that the sensitive and ongoing issue of the size and scope of the SSLC network touches endless points of consideration. Listening to your thoughtful questions and comments, the Sunset Staff, Agencies and the public has been a saturation of learning.

With a SSLC in my district and hometown of Abilene, I make no claim of pure objectivity. As a healthcare provider, my facility and quite frankly all patient care is under continual and changing governmental regulations and subsequent evaluations. The following statement from a January 15, 2014 Monitoring Team Report on the Abilene SSLC carried considerable weight and impact for me when deciphering the facts presented in the Sunset reports. In the Monitoring Team's own words they warn those reviewing their documents to avoid making a rush to judgment on facilities in their monitoring team reports stating:

*"Merely counting the number of substantial compliance ratings to determine if the Facility is making progress is problematic for a number of reasons." First, the number of substantial compliance ratings is **not** a good indicator of progress. Second, not all provision items are equal in weigh or complexity. Some require significant systematic change to a number of processes, whereas others require only implementation of a single action."*<sup>1</sup>

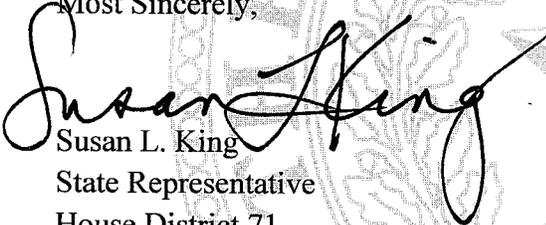
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As the Commission weighs public testimony alongside the current DADS Sunset Staff Report, please pause and consider any inconsistencies and discrepancies in the data that could result in unknown or even unacceptable outcomes for vulnerable Texans.

Furthermore, the Sunset staff proposal<sup>ii</sup> of a five member general public gubernatorial appointment commission would make the final closure determination without any record votes by the Legislature would be ill-advised. I do not support rescinding the responsibility of representative government when so much is at stake for individuals, families and entire communities.

Thank you for your studied consideration as you deliberate all the factors of this monumental undertaking. Your leadership and service are greatly appreciated.

Most Sincerely,



Susan L. King  
State Representative  
House District 71

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<sup>i</sup> United States v. State of Texas, Monitoring Team Report, Abilene State Supported Living Center, November 4<sup>th</sup>-November 8<sup>th</sup> 2013, Maria Laurence, MPA, Monitor, January 15, 2014, pg.5

<sup>ii</sup> DADS Sunset Staff Report, Issue 1, Recommendation 1.2, pg. 38, June 2014