

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Janet Wood](#)
Subject: FW: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Wednesday, June 25, 2014 4:46:56 PM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2014 8:47 AM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Wednesday, June 25, 2014 - 08:47

Agency: DEPARTMENT STATE HEALTH SERVICES DSHS

First Name: Rachel

Last Name: Barlow

Title: Mrs.

Organization you are affiliated with:

City: San Antonio

State: Texas

Your Comments About the Staff Report, Including Recommendations Supported or Opposed: I have used a midwife for the birth of both of my children. I feel that it is a great disservice to move this Board. The Texas Midwifery Board is not due for Sunset Review until 2016-2017. Any changes to the make-up of the Midwifery Board or it's law or rules should be tabled until that review. The move will eliminate rule-making authority of the Midwifery Board, an ability crucial to continually improving safety and maintaining best practice standards. I would like the board to remain as is for the safety of myself and other woman as well as our right to birth.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency:

ACOG/TCOG have stated in their comments that there is a conflict of interest due to Licensed Midwives holding the majority on the Midwifery Board. However, doctors hold the majority on the Medical Board and nurses hold the majority on the Board of Nursing. During the last Sunset Review, it was the Sunset Review Commission that chose to give midwives a majority on the Board since other Boards at DSHS and around the country have practitioners from that profession as the majority on the Board.

ACOG/TCOG have stated in their comments that "lay midwives" should have to comply with ACME standards and take the AMCB exam for certification. First, Licensed Midwives are not "lay midwives". The Texas Midwifery Board already requires standardized education for Licensed Midwives as well as the NARM exam, a 350-question, eight-hour comprehensive midwifery exam. NARM is accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA) which is the same accredits ACME. The requirements recommended by ACOG/TCOG are for nurse-midwives with an expanded scope beyond that of the Licensed Midwife and are not specialized for providing care in out-of-hospital settings. These standards would put over 200 midwives out of business, harming Texas' economy and reducing access to maternity care for thousands of Texans.

No changes are currently needed to the Texas Midwifery Board and revisions should be discussed during the

2016-2017 review.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree