

**From:** [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)  
**To:** [Janet Wood](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 17, 2014 1:14:18 PM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]  
Sent: Tuesday, June 17, 2014 11:10 AM  
To: Sunset Advisory Commission  
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Tuesday, June 17, 2014 - 11:10

Agency: DEPARTMENT STATE HEALTH SERVICES DSHS

First Name: Mary Carol

Last Name: Coffman

Title: Education Advocate

Organization you are affiliated with:

City: Austin

State: Texas

Your Comments About the Staff Report, Including Recommendations Supported or Opposed: I support continued licensure of dyslexia therapists. This state-sanctioned credential helps parents, physicians and other professionals identify qualified teachers for children struggling to read. The need for qualified therapists is huge: dyslexia is the most common learning problem worldwide, with estimates ranging from 1 in 5 to 1 in 12 students being impacted—the numbers vary due to disagreement about how severe one must be to require help in the classroom. Though dyslexia identification and remediation are acknowledged in our state education code, that law provides no enforcement mechanism, no legal remedy, and no consequence for a Texas school district that fails to implement it. When districts fail to teach, parents are left to find help in the marketplace. The marketplace is full of vendors offering unproven, non-evidenced-based therapy for dyslexia--the Brain Balance franchises are but one example. Encourage evidence-based remediation for dyslexia: keep the licensure. We desperately need more qualified therapists.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: Please keep dyslexia therapist licensure!

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree