

**From:** [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)  
**To:** [Janet Wood](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)  
**Date:** Monday, June 23, 2014 3:12:09 PM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]  
Sent: Monday, June 23, 2014 11:35 AM  
To: Sunset Advisory Commission  
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Monday, June 23, 2014 - 11:35

Agency: DEPARTMENT STATE HEALTH SERVICES DSHS

First Name: Cindy

Last Name: Corley

Title: President

Organization you are affiliated with: Texas Environmental Health Association

City: Garland

State: Texas

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit the following comments regarding the DSHS review by the Sunset Advisory Commission. I am writing on behalf of the Texas Environmental Health Association (TEHA), one of the state's largest professional organizations comprised of Registered Sanitarians, Code Enforcement Officers, Animal Control Officers, and other environmental and public health professionals. We respectfully oppose Recommendation 3.1 in the DSHS Sunset Staff Report to deregulate the Code Enforcement Officer Program and license in Texas.

The following comments reflect our major concerns with the review recommendations:

- 1) Code Enforcement Officers are critical in protecting the public welfare. Effective code enforcement helps bring to life a community's positive vision for itself by ensuring that land and buildings are safe and attractive. Many times code enforcement is the front line battleground for public health and safety. Being a licensed Code Enforcement Officer gives an officer solid footing on knowledge of state law, local ordinances, and local procedures when citing and abating these nuisances. Code enforcement is a function local governments perform that many citizens consider important for accomplishing community goals, such as protecting property values and the environment.
- 2) There is a need to streamline this profession for the integrity of most municipalities and counties. The current standards, minimum qualifications, and training prescribed by TEEEX provides for the professional recognition needed for a Licensed Code Enforcement Officer to effectively do their job.

Statewide standards and certification are important to maintain continuity and form a basis from which every Licensed Code Enforcement Officer begins their understanding of federal, state, county, and municipal laws and ordinances.

3) Contrary to the report, no additional regulation is provided via another state regulatory program, local regulation, or private or national accreditation for Code Enforcement Officers. Eliminating this state program in Texas would leave these professionals without a license that most jurisdictions covet for their employees to ensure they are properly trained and meet a standard that their communities expect.

TEHA supports Recommendation 3.2 in the DSHS Sunset Staff Report to transfer the Sanitarian program from DSHS to TDLR and also hopes that the Commission will do the same for the Code Enforcement Program.

Thank you again for the opportunity to submit comments on the DSHS Staff Report. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions regarding our comments.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency:

TEHA supports Recommendation 3.2 in the DSHS Sunset Staff Report to transfer the Sanitarian program from DSHS to TDLR and also hopes that the Commission will do the same for the Code Enforcement Program.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree



## Texas Environmental Health Association

P.O. Box 889, Wolfforth, Texas 79382

(806) 855-4277

[www.myteha.org](http://www.myteha.org)

June 23, 2014

RE: DSHS Sunset Review

Dear Committee Members:

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Thank you again for the opportunity to submit comments on the DSHS Staff Report. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions regarding our comments.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cindy Corley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Cindy Corley, MPH, RS

President

Texas Environmental Health Association

972-205-3456

[ccorley@garlandtx.gov](mailto:ccorley@garlandtx.gov)