

**From:** [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)  
**To:** [Janet Wood](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)  
**Date:** Thursday, June 19, 2014 1:43:31 PM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]  
Sent: Thursday, June 19, 2014 10:16 AM  
To: Sunset Advisory Commission  
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Thursday, June 19, 2014 - 10:16

Agency: DEPARTMENT STATE HEALTH SERVICES DSHSundefined

First Name: Phyllis

Last Name: Davis Ogier

Title: Dyslexia Therapist/ Certified Academic Language Therapist

Organization you are affiliated with: Texas Scottish Rite Hospital and private practice... Katy Independent School District

City: Hempstead

State: Texas

Your Comments About the Staff Report, Including Recommendations Supported or Opposed: I have been practicing dyslexia therapy since 1995, long before state licensure was available. During that time, I have seen growth in knowledge and researched based practice for dyslexia. However, one only needs to go as far as the web or sometimes even the local school district to see that many people who profess to be teachers/experts in this field do not have the knowledge or expertise to properly instruct a dyslexic. One simply needs to print up a business card and claim to be an expert. This can lead to years of struggle for the student and expense for the parents who do not have any knowledge that poor practices are out there and that all teachers do not have the same level of training. Without licensure, there is no official way to determine which persons have the highest level of training from those who simply call themselves a dyslexia tutor and take money from families. The state of Texas has been leading the field in this area and has been a model for other states. When going to the international dyslexia conferences, Texas is always lauded as being a leader. It would be criminal to go backward and not continue to lead the field in advocating for the highest standards. Parents do not have to choose a licensed individual for tutoring, but at least they would know the high standard and expertise available in contrast to choosing someone out of the phone book and hoping that the person is truly qualified to teach in this area. I equate this with picking a dentist out of the phone book and not knowing whether or not he/she passed the state boards or even if they took the courses. It is my highest hope that our legislators will use good judgment and choose to continue the licensing of dyslexia therapists. This should not be a numbers game. It is about making a decision to do what is best for the field and for the students and their families.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: The only recommendation I have is the one I give to parents. When one is searching for help in the area of dyslexia, go to the experts and not to people simply in general education (or not in education at all). Go to the researchers and organizations which have the expertise to make a determination about what is best. The leading one is the International Dyslexia Association. Let that

research based information be used in making the decision... not shooting from the hip by those not in the field and not qualified to make that determination.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree