

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 26, 2014 1:43:39 PM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2014 10:38 AM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Thursday, June 26, 2014 - 10:37

Agency: DEPARTMENT STATE HEALTH SERVICES DSHS

First Name: Angela

Last Name: Fagg

Title:

Organization you are affiliated with:

City: Tomball

State: Texas

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

I am a mother of three young Texans, one of whom was born under the care of two phenomenal midwives at a local birth center. Both of my midwives are licensed and certified (LM / CPM). The care I received under these midwives was second to none. My pregnancy was healthy and normal, and delivery was perfect. My midwives were professional, caring and extremely knowledgeable throughout my pregnancy and postpartum period. I was free to talk directly to my midwives whenever questions came up from the very beginning of my pregnancy through my breastfeeding journey to this day.

Licensed Midwives undergo extensive training and apprenticeship prior to receiving their licenses, and are more than capable of assisting women through normal, healthy pregnancies. They are also very in tune with their patients, and know if and when those patients should be transferred to the care of an Obstetrician, if the pregnancy becomes abnormal or unhealthy.

This professionalism and high quality of care fosters a feeling of trust between pregnant women and their midwives, and relieves a lot of stress during pregnancies.

My Licensed Midwives were my health care providers throughout pregnancy – they should be regulated under DSHS, as it is best equipped to regulate health care professionals. Moving the Texas Midwifery Board to the Department of Licensing and Regulation would crush Licensed Midwifery care in the State of Texas, which is not fair to Texans! In the past, the Sunset Review Commission rejected the idea of moving the Texas Midwifery Board, and rightly so.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency:

I understand that ACOG/TCOG have stated that they believe there is a conflict of interest in having Licensed

Midwives hold the majority on the Midwifery Board. However, do not doctors hold the majority on the Medical Board, and nurses hold the majority on the Board of Nursing? I fail to see how this is a conflict of interest, since it is an established practice to have licensed practitioners hold majority seats on Boards which regulate their profession; after all, who knows the profession better than those who hold the licenses and have the experience necessary to understand the needs of that particular profession?

Licensed Midwives are regulated under the Texas Midwifery Board, and are required to obtain standardized education and to pass the NARM exam, a 350-question, eight-hour comprehensive midwifery exam upon completion of their education and hands-on training. NARM is accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies, which also accredits ACME. There is no need for change to the Texas Midwifery Board, or the manner in which our Licensed Midwives are licensed.

Please do not change or further restrict Texas women's access to licensed midwives – they are an integral part of our society and medical community, handling healthy, normal pregnancies which do not require surgical assistance. They are also a great resource for Obstetricians and Hospitals, since they transfer higher risk patients to their care once a risk presents itself. This partnership helps the entire medical community, in my opinion.

Please continue to allow Licensed Midwives to continue practicing under the Texas Midwifery Board, under DSHS – the system is not broken, there is no need to change it.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree