

**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 8:05:32 AM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]  
Sent: Tuesday, June 24, 2014 5:43 PM  
To: Sunset Advisory Commission  
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Tuesday, June 24, 2014 - 17:43

Agency: DEPARTMENT STATE HEALTH SERVICES DSHS

First Name: Laurie

Last Name: Fremgen

Title: Certified Professional Midwife, Licensed Midwife

Organization you are affiliated with: Association of Texas Midwives

City: Austin

State: Texas

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

I would like to see the Midwifery Board remain with the Department of State Health Services. The DSHS is the best agency to handle health care professionals. In the past, the sunset review committees have rejected moving the midwifery board to the medical board or the nursing board since midwives are not medical professionals. Midwives are, however, health care professionals.

It is crucial to the public safety to keep the midwifery board with the DSHS so that the midwifery board can continue to regulate the midwives of Texas.

The board creates and enforces the rules it creates. The board has done this and continues to do this very successfully. Any move from a regulatory board to an advisory board, which is what would happen if the midwifery board is moved to TDLR, would prohibit the board from taking action against a midwife that may have exceeded the bounds of midwifery care. The best people to enforce this are the midwives themselves, along with the doctors and public members that are currently present on the board.

Any changes to the midwifery board should be tabled for the 2016 sunset review of the midwifery board.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency:

1. Keep the midwifery board with the DSHS
2. Table any changes to the midwifery board for the 2016 sunset review.
3. There is no such thing as a "lay midwife." A lay person is one who has no training. Licensed Midwives in Texas are a highly trained, very competent group of health care professionals.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree