

**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 24, 2014 3:56:46 PM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]  
Sent: Tuesday, June 24, 2014 10:43 AM  
To: Sunset Advisory Commission  
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Tuesday, June 24, 2014 - 10:42

Agency: DEPARTMENT STATE HEALTH SERVICES DSHSundefined

First Name: Jennifer

Last Name: Gwinn

Title: Licensed Certified Academic Language Therapist

Organization you are affiliated with: LEAD, LEISD

City: Little Elm

State: Texas

Your Comments About the Staff Report, Including Recommendations Supported or Opposed: As a licensed therapist that currently provides dyslexia therapy to many public school children, I strongly object to the abolishment of the licensure. The education and awareness the licensure provides is invaluable. Never before have so many students diagnosed with a specific reading disability been more successful in school and on statewide testing due to the therapy and advocacy provided by a qualified therapist. The State of Texas has been highly respected as a leader in the field of dyslexia and dyslexia laws, and to change that would tell the rest of the country that we made a mistake and no longer value the importance of helping ALL children become successful. Students with reading challenges need a highly qualified therapist to administer assessments to help identify characteristics of dyslexia, and then be able to provide therapy based on the student's needs. Can a student continue through school without a licensed therapist? Well of course, the struggling student would need to locate a teacher that understands his/her challenges and is willing to take the time to help and assist, along with supportive, advocating parents. It would be like taking a physically challenged student and not providing them access to a wheelchair. Could the student get from point A to point B? Sure, the student could have someone carry them; push them on a rolling chair, etc. Or would it serve the student better to have access to the wheelchair so that he/she could become a successful, independent member of society? A licensed therapist provides the necessary tools for a dyslexic student to become an independent learner and a successful member of society.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: Keep the licensure in place.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree