

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 30, 2014 4:35:31 PM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Monday, June 30, 2014 3:20 PM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Monday, June 30, 2014 - 15:20

Agency: DEPARTMENT STATE HEALTH SERVICES DSHS

First Name: Bill

Last Name: Hammond

Title: CEO

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State: Texas

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

On behalf of 4,000-plus business members from across the state and over 200 chambers of commerce, the Texas Association of Business (TAB) would like to thank you for this opportunity to offer our feedback in regards to the recently released Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Sunset Report, specifically Issue 7 regarding the Texas Health Care Information Collection (THCIC) Program.

TAB urges the Commission to adopt the staff recommendation on Issue 7. We agree that the state has a continuing need for the program to continue. The THCIC program and the data available from it promotes quality, accessible, and cost-efficient healthcare in Texas.

The THCIC program is the only statewide healthcare data collection system of its kind in the state, collecting both inpatient and outpatient discharge data from healthcare facilities. It is vital to continue this program from a public health and educational standpoint as its users include state agencies, health departments, hospitals, universities, and academic researchers.

Furthermore, this data collection is on-trend with the nation; 48 states collect inpatient hospital discharge data.

Thank you for considering the viewpoints of the Texas Association of Business.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: TAB supports continuation of the THCIC program with modest additional funding to develop on-line tools to improve consumer access to information on health care cost and quality and to make the Public Use Data file accessible to more organizations by reducing user fees.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree