

**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 4:41:38 PM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]  
Sent: Monday, June 30, 2014 1:52 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 - 13:52

Agency: DEPARTMENT STATE HEALTH SERVICES DSHS

First Name: Angie

Last Name: Herzberger

Title: Certified Professional Midwife, Licensed Midwife

Organization you are affiliated with: Motherly Way Maternity Services

City: Midland

State: Texas

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

In regards to the recent staff report by the Texas Sunset Advisory Commission, I and my fellow midwives at Motherly Way Maternity Services are strongly opposed to several recommendations contained within.

We are opposed to the recommendation by the Commission that the Texas Midwifery Board be moved to the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR). This change would impair the Board's ability to improve safety standards and establish best practices standards by removing its rule making authority.

We stand with the Association of Texas Midwives (ATM) and Texans for Midwifery (TfM) in their assertion that DSHS is best equipped to regulate health care professionals and the Board should remain under this department to ensure the best care is provided to the increasing number of Texas residence choosing midwifery care.

The Texas Midwifery Board should not be moved to any alternative board such as the Medical Board or the Board of Nursing. These are not viable alternatives.

We emphatically disagree that "lay midwives" be made to conform to ACME standards and the AMCB exam for certification. Licensed Midwives are not "lay midwives" and are required by the Board to comply with national standards through NARM certification in order to practice in our state. This course of study is extremely rigorous and best fits the scope of practice for this field.

We disagree with ACOG/TCOG in their statement that a conflict of interest occurs due to Licensed Midwives holding the majority on the Midwifery Board. This practice is common as seen in the boards of doctors and nurses whom also hold majority.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency:

We request that no changes be made to the Texas Midwifery Law, and that the issues in question be tabled for discussion until the scheduled 2016 - 2017 Sunset Review for the Texas Midwifery Board.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree