

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 16, 2014 8:15:02 AM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Saturday, June 14, 2014 9:55 AM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Saturday, June 14, 2014 - 09:55

Agency: DEPARTMENT STATE HEALTH SERVICES DSHS

First Name: Beth

Last Name: Hewett

Title: Dyslexia Therapist

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State: Texas

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

I oppose the current suggestion that the state abolish licensure for Dyslexia Therapists under the sunset legislation. I am a dyslexia therapist and I am a parent of dyslexic children. I watched the academic struggles my children faced and the negative impact of those struggles on their self esteem. We were blessed to have some incredible dyslexia therapists who changed their lives by teaching them to read in the way they learned. Throughout my sons' time in school, I have had to teach other educators about dyslexia and it's impacts in the learning environment. I became a therapist to not only help my sons but to help other children. I fight everyday for the children I teach, I am constantly educating parents, teachers and administrators.

There are many schools currently who do not recognize and help dyslexic children. Licensure of dyslexia therapists helps to ensure that educators are properly trained in research based methods to teach dyslexic children. It is those individuals who can not only help individual children but also help schools to implement effective programs to help dyslexic children.

Texas has been a forerunner in the area of dyslexia. We have incredible resources with the work done by Texas Scottish Rite Hospital, SMU, and The Shelton School , to name just a few. We have a Dyslexia law and licensure that other states are emulating. Yet we are now looking to take a drastic step backward by doing away with licensure.

The sunset commission is in place to review and eliminate areas of duplication or areas that are no longer needed in order to reduce government expenditures which I applaud. However, I fail to see how licensure of dyslexia therapists falls in either of those areas. The children are our future. We should be investing in their education and ensuring we are providing the best possible education to meet every child's need. Licensure of dyslexia therapists

ensures that individuals are properly trained to meet the needs of dyslexic children.

Not investing in our children and their education has negative long term effects on all of us. You need only look at our prison system to find examples of where we failed.

I fight everyday for the future of the children I teach and I know many others in other school districts who do the same. I implore you to do the same by NOT abolishing the Dyslexia Therapist's Licensure.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: There are many professions in Texas that require licensure. Surely there is an agency that can effectively issue and monitor the dyslexia therapists licensure just as they do speech therapists. They are related as speech therapists remediate oral language and dyslexia therapists remediate written language.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree