

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Janet Wood](#)
Subject: FW: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Thursday, June 26, 2014 8:46:03 AM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2014 9:33 PM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Wednesday, June 25, 2014 - 21:33

Agency: DEPARTMENT STATE HEALTH SERVICES DSHS

First Name: Katy

Last Name: Holladay

Title:

Organization you are affiliated with:

City: Lamesa

State: Texas

Your Comments About the Staff Report, Including Recommendations Supported or Opposed: I am currently pregnant with my second child and I have used midwives for both my first and second pregnancies. I feel that their care during my previous pregnancy and birth, as well this pregnancy, has been excellent. I feel that they have addressed all of my prenatal needs in a holistic manner that made me confident that they were concerned for my overall health during these times in my life. It does not make sense for the Texas Midwifery Board, which is totally concerned with the health and well-being of pregnant women and their fetuses, to be removed from the Department of State Health Services. The Department of Licensing and Regulation is not set up to deal with women's health issues. If such a move was made, it would make me think that the State of Texas is not as concerned about women's health as it claims to be. I think that any changes that may or may not need to be made to the Texas Midwifery Board should be made when the Sunset Review Commission makes its review in 2016-2017. I do not believe that the current system is broken, therefore I see no reason to "fix" it.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency:

It has been stated that the Texas Midwifery Board should not have a majority of licensed midwives. This is a rather ridiculous statement as every specialized board has a majority in its particular field. The Medical Board has a majority of doctors, the Board of Nursing has a majority of nurses, even the Board of Education has a majority of former teachers. People who work or have worked in their chosen field should be able to hold the majority of their board as they know what is going on.

It has also been stated that "lay midwives" should comply with ACME standards and take the AMCB exam. "Lay" would imply that there are midwives practicing midwifery without any certification whatsoever. This is simply not true. In order to be recognized as a licensed midwife, one must go through extensive education and pass the NARM exam. This exam is accredited by the NCCA, which has also accredited the AMCB exam. These recommendations should apply only to nurse-midwives who have expanded their knowledge and services beyond the scope of a Licensed Midwife.

To sum it all up, I do not want to have my right to choose who, when, where and how I will receive prenatal care and give birth taken away from me. I chose to use midwives, not because I doubted the ability of the medical profession but because I wanted simplicity. Women having been giving birth with midwives for thousands of years and have done an excellent job of populating the earth. For normal pregnancies and births, I see no reason to complicate it. I am very glad the physicians and hospitals are available to me; but I so enjoyed the intimacy of a midwife-assisted birth. If women have the right to choose whether or not to get pregnant; the right to choose whether or not to terminate a pregnancy, then they should also have the right to choose how they want their prenatal care and birth to proceed. The Texas Midwifery Board should be left as is- they are doing an outstanding job of protecting women's health and the health of their babies.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree