

**From:** [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)  
**To:** [Janet Wood](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Please Forward to: Tom Luce  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 15, 2014 3:20:29 PM

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**From:** Elizabeth Kiertscher [mailto:[agliz@sbcglobal.net](mailto:agliz@sbcglobal.net)]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 15, 2014 11:55 AM  
**To:** Sunset Advisory Commission  
**Subject:** Please Forward to: Tom Luce

Honorable Tom Luce,

I understand that the Sunset Commission is considering potential modifications to a recent Department of State Health Services Sunset Staff Report proposal that would impact numerous occupational licensing programs in Texas, including dietitian licensure. As a Licensed Dietitian practicing in Dallas, Texas since 2010, I believe it is imperative for the State of Texas to continue the important consumer protections performed by the Texas State Board of Examiners of Dietitians.

I appreciate the difficulties faced by the Department of State Health Services in managing multiple diverse regulatory programs and the need to re-evaluate functions that do not support the agency's core mission. However, a strong case can be made that the work of Licensed Dietitians is directly compatible with current agency programs designed to better manage chronic health conditions, such as diabetes, heart disease and obesity.

Additionally, I hope the Sunset Commission will take into account that Licensed Dietitians who are credentialed to perform Medical Nutrition Therapy also help the state tackle rising health care costs. In almost every medical setting, having a Licensed Dietitian as part of the extended health care team can help shorten hospital stays, prevent readmissions and improve health care outcomes. Simply put, medical employers seek out Licensed Dietitians in their hiring practices because they know we can add value and efficiencies to their operations

If dietitian licensure were to be abruptly ended, there would be significant consequences for consumers and employers who need and rely upon the unique services and expertise of Licensed Dietitians. I hope I can count on your support in ensuring that does not occur--the Texas Board of Examiners of Dietitians should be removed from the list of regulatory programs targeted for extinction in the DSHS Sunset Staff Report.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Kiertscher, MS, RD, CSSD, LD, CNSC, CPT  
Texas Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Foundation Director  
Dallas Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Secretary