

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Janet Wood](#)
Subject: FW: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Wednesday, June 18, 2014 4:42:06 PM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Wednesday, June 18, 2014 2:20 PM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Wednesday, June 18, 2014 - 14:19

Agency: DEPARTMENT STATE HEALTH SERVICES DSHS

First Name: Lisa

Last Name: Mensing

Title: Environmental Health Specialist

Organization you are affiliated with: City of Richardson

City: richardson

State: Texas

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

I recently read the commission evaluated DSHS and particularly state-issued licenses and the corresponding programs. If it is true that the staff report recommends the removal of 19 professions from state regulation deeming that the programs are "not critical in ensuring public welfare" I'm strongly encouraging the commission to reconsider. Such an action is expected to "remove from state law the title acts and enabling statutes for the 19 programs as well as any references to the licensure, certification, or registration of these professions or practices." As you know, Code Enforcement is included in this recommendation and consequently, the current requirements of the Texas Occupation Code which sets forth the requirements of the profession and the authorization to practice as a Registered Code Enforcement Officer would thereby be eliminated. As a Registered Sanitarian working for a municipality I find I depend more and more on the ability of competent, well trained, and adequately compensated Code Officers to recognize and properly address nuisance issues before they reach a level of non-compliance that snow balls into rodent harborage, insect infestation and other issues that act as vectors of disease and other impacts to public health.

The value that an effective and motivated Code Officer can have to a community is nearly immeasurable but you could contact the staff at Keep Texas Beautiful. They can connect you with the representatives for KTB affiliates they can show you the data and proof of how the integrity of their community and vitality of neighborhoods improved exponentially when they were finally able to fund a full time Code Officer dedicated to effectively applying the basic principals of property maintenance and minimum standards.

The increase in property values and decrease in crime rates are tangible evidence of the value of this profession and the licensure requirements that give Code Officers a livable wage.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: I do understand the purpose of the Committee's recommendation is to address the shrinking resources of the Department of State Health Services by eliminating the

credentialing of Code Enforcement Officers. I fear this step will negatively impact the profession of the Code Enforcement Officer as well as the ability of the Public and Environmental Health professionals to properly and effectively serve their communities. Increased fees or improving the efficiency of the DSHS may be an alternative but I hope to see every effort be taken to see that the Code Enforcement Officer registration remain in place.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree