

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 8:11:43 AM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Saturday, June 28, 2014 7:24 AM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Saturday, June 28, 2014 - 07:23

Agency: DEPARTMENT STATE HEALTH SERVICES DSHS

First Name: Heather

Last Name: O'Toole

Title: Licensed Dyslexia Therapist, CALT

Organization you are affiliated with: ALTA, INternational Dyslexia Association

City: Flower Mound

State: Texas

Your Comments About the Staff Report, Including Recommendations Supported or

Opposed: I am opposed to the recommendation to abolish licensure for dyslexia therapists and practitioners. I think the only way to ensure individuals with dyslexia get the quality therapy they deserve is to promote licensure even further. If you had a child with a speech impairment or an articulation issue, you would choose a licensed speech therapist to work with him or her, not just a person who has had " some training." Why? Because knowing the therapist is a Licensed Speech Language Pathologist gives you the assurance they are well trained and have passed the necessary tests to achieve that title. The same is true for a Licensed Dyslexia Therapist. We have gone through rigorous training and passed the national exam, so parents know we are qualified to work with their dyslexic child. I believe schools should be required to hire LDT to teach their dyslexia classes- but currently, a regular classroom teacher with no background in dyslexia and no special training can be hired to teach the dyslexia classes. If you abolish licensure for dyslexia therapists, what message will that send to school districts? To parents of children with dyslexia? To individuals with dyslexia? Are they not important enough to merit having highly-qualified teachers and therapists?

Please do not abolish state licensure for dyslexia therapists and practitioners. The rest of the nation is watching- and Texas has been at the forefront of dyslexia awareness and education for decades. Don't put us back behind other states.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: Please keep licensure for dyslexia therapists and practitioners as a priority.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree