

**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 4:40:43 PM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]  
Sent: Monday, June 30, 2014 2:11 PM  
To: Sunset Advisory Commission  
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Monday, June 30, 2014 - 14:11

Agency: DEPARTMENT STATE HEALTH SERVICES DSHS

First Name: Tanja

Last Name: Oehlschlager

Title:

Organization you are affiliated with:

City: Colleyville

State: Texas

Your Comments About the Staff Report, Including Recommendations Supported or Opposed: My husband and I strongly oppose the proposal for abolishment of licensure for Certified Language Therapists in the State of Texas. Our ten year old son was diagnosed with dyslexia close to four years ago. Since he was attending a Montessori school, we utilized a private licensed language therapist who specialized in dyslexia remediation. Our son made excellent progress under her direction and thrived academically. Upon entering public school two years later, he was assigned to a "reading group" under guidance of a reading instructor who was skilled, yet not licensed as a language therapist. Our son's grades began to decline, his reading deteriorated (Lexile level below average and no progress over six months), his self-esteem suffered, and he began to act out his frustrations (his intelligence scores are above average, he is ambitious, and it became impossible for him to produce the output he expected of himself and he knew he was capable of), resulting in disruption to his classroom. The reading specialist reported that he was doing well in the program, yet we decided to pull him out of the reading program and re-engage a certified language therapist for our son. Immediately, his grades and behavior improved significantly (as documented by his MAPS and test scores and lack of disciplinary write-ups) and his self-confidence returned. A year later he has emerged as a leader in his school, was voted by his peers into the student council, and was accepted into the Advanced Pull-Out Program due to his academic performance, problem solving and inter social skills, along with his critical thinking abilities. He is continuing to see his language therapist on a regular basis and may need to do so for the remainder of his academic years. However, she has made all the difference in the world to him, and so has his previous licensed language therapist. A reading specialist is not a licensed language therapist and outcome is not the same for a child with dyslexia. It would be a great disservice to all the dyslexic students (10-30% of the student population), if appropriate intervention becomes impossible due to unqualified therapists. Undoubtedly, the passing of this proposal would come at great cost to Texas: as classrooms become disrupted, STAAR results lag, academic performance declines, self-esteem suffers, drug use / criminal activity results in a portion of these students, and all dyslexic students would be robbed of the opportunity to reach their potential. Consequently, this great State and

Country, along with society as a whole, would lose the benefit of these students' positive contributions and innovative ideas!

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: Maintain the licensing requirements for Certified Language Therapists in the State of Texas, to ensure quality education, accountability to, and advocacy for all students with dyslexia.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree