

**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 8:29:17 AM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]  
Sent: Sunday, June 29, 2014 1:42 PM  
To: Sunset Advisory Commission  
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Sunday, June 29, 2014 - 13:41

Agency: DEPARTMENT STATE HEALTH SERVICES DSHS

First Name: Darcy

Last Name: Stahl

Title:

Organization you are affiliated with:

City: Big Sandy

State: Texas

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

I have been very blessed to be able to birth my children at home with the assistance of a certified licensed midwife. I received excellent care and am so thankful to have had that option.

It is my understanding that a review of the Texas Midwifery Board is not scheduled until 2016-2017. Please do not make any changes to this board (or its laws or rules) until that time.

The rule-making authority of the Texas Midwifery Board allows for the maintenance of the best practice standards and is able to continually improve safety for those choosing midwife care. If this board is moved to the Department of Licensing and Regulation, this ability will be removed. The Department of State Health Services is the best department to regulate health care professions and the Texas Midwifery Board should not be moved from it.

The Texas Midwifery Board should also not be moved to the Medical Board or the Board of Nursing since licensed midwives are not medical professionals (i.e.-doctors, nurses, or physician's assistants.) The Sunset Review Commission has prevented this move in the past and should continue to do so.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency:

Licensed midwives are not 'lay midwives' and already undergo comprehensive testing via the NARM exam to become certified. Changing these standards as the ACOG/TCOG have recommended would put Texas midwives out of business and limit the right of women to choose where they would to receive prenatal care and safely deliver their babies.

Based on my own experiences and others' I know of, no changes currently need to be made to the Texas Midwifery

Board. All proposed changes should be tabled until the 2016-2017 review.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree