

**From:** [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)  
**To:** [Janet Wood](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 24, 2014 3:52:20 PM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]  
Sent: Tuesday, June 24, 2014 12:44 PM  
To: Sunset Advisory Commission  
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Tuesday, June 24, 2014 - 12:43

Agency: DEPARTMENT STATE HEALTH SERVICES DSHS

First Name: Holly

Last Name: Stahnke

Title:

Organization you are affiliated with:

City: Austin

State: Texas

Your Comments About the Staff Report, Including Recommendations Supported or Opposed: I am writing as a concerned citizen regarding the suggestion that the Texas Midwifery Board be moved to the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation. I am a native Texan, and I support the continued freedoms on which we Texans have always prided ourselves. Our sense of independence, combined with a compassionate and science-based approach to healthcare, is pivotal our ability as individuals to make intelligent decisions regarding birth choices and other health-related issues. I have five children and have given birth in both traditional hospital settings and in my home. From a purely statistical standpoint, in-home midwifery care is safer than hospital care. My concern is that this departmental shift will limit the voice that midwives have in our government and will limit the expression of their scientific and experience-based recommendations as to the best choices available to women in Texas. Already, many women have concerns about government overreach and oversight with regard to their healthcare.

Regulating Texas midwifery standards from a purely bureaucratic method rather than a health-based model could be devastating to the choices currently afforded Texas women. Given the fact that DSHS has experience in healthcare issues, Texas midwifery regulation would be more safely and easily left where it is. Doctors are wonderful and necessary and have a strong voice when it comes to clinical and hospital care, as they should. Midwives are equally wonderful and necessary, and should have an equally strong voice when home birth matters are being considered. My concern is that because they are fewer in numbers, as shift away from DSHS to TDLR will leave midwives without the critical, intelligent, science-based home birthing voice they should have and that such a move will relegate them to a bureaucracy-based checklist founded on management-oriented principles rather than those based on best health practices. In short, please do not move the Texas Midwifery Board from DSHS to TDLR.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: Please do not move the Texas Midwifery Board from DSHS to TDLR.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree