

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 3:50:41 PM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Tuesday, June 24, 2014 3:47 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 - 15:46

Agency: DEPARTMENT STATE HEALTH SERVICES DSHS

First Name: Julie

Last Name: Wiseman

Title: Citizen of the great State of Texas

Organization you are affiliated with:

City: Midland

State: Texas

Your Comments About the Staff Report, Including Recommendations Supported or Opposed: I am opposed to the Commission's recommendation to move the Texas Midwifery Board to the TDLR (away from DSHS). DSHS has experience in healthcare issues and The Midwifery Board, with its ability to make rules, has done a good job providing oversight for a field of highly-trained and licensed professionals that work under different conditions and in different settings (including in-home births) than physicians and nurse midwives. A move to the TDLR would remove the rule-making authority which insures vigilance in setting- and paradigm-appropriate best practices. Consideration of any changes in the Board's composition, rules/laws should be tabled until The Midwifery Board is due for Sunset Review in 2016-17.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: The Sunset Review Commission has recognized the need to keep the Texas Midwifery Board separate from the Medical Board and the Board of Nursing in the past. This provides for recognition of the distinctives of the licensed midwife's practice paradigm, while insuring high quality care with continuous review and implementation of best practice standards. The Texas Midwifery Board has repeatedly recognized the professional nature of licensed midwives, calling for standardized education appropriate for the setting of their work, for the rigorous national exam (NARM) which tests for skills/knowledge needed within the parameters of the services appropriately provided outside the hospital setting and beyond the scope of those needed by physicians/nurse midwives who practice solely in hospitals. Moreover, with such distinctions involved, the Sunset Review Commission appropriately assigned licensed midwives the majority of Board positions, just as physicians and nurses hold the majority on their boards. Licensed midwives have the knowledge/skills needed to determine appropriate qualifications, testing and practices for this distinct practice. No changes are currently needed in the Board's established policies and consideration of any revisions should be held until the Board is due for sunset review in 2016-17. Texans cherish their freedom, and highly-trained, professional, licensed midwives offer many Texans a safe alternative to hospital births. No, it's not just like grandmother's delivery because we have learned so much more and actually have the hospital option for anyone that wants/needs

it, but it is consistent with Texans' love for personal freedom and is PROVEN around the globe to be a safe birth alternative for low-risk mothers and infants. Say yes to women's right to choose, keep the Texas Midwifery Board's rigorous rules and oversight as they are now and honor the scheduled sunset review in 2016-17 for considering any possible revisions.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree