

TEXAS HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION

BEN RAIMER, M.D. Chair, Health and Human Services Council

October 15, 2014

Mr. Ken Levine, Director, Sunset Advisory Commission P.O. Box 13066 Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Mr. Levine,

On behalf of the Health and Human Services Commission Council, I welcome this opportunity to respond to the Sunset Staff Report on the Health and Human Services Commission and System Issues. The Council appreciates the thoughtful research conducted by your staff during their year-long review – staff has done a remarkable job and we congratulate them on their hard work.

The HHSC Council supports all recommendations contained within the report, but takes no position on Issues 10, 11, and 15. While the Council agrees with the report's findings and recommendations, we would like to underscore the value and importance of continued public input, as outside professionals can assist the agency in solving complex problems. In addition to this response, HHSC Council members plan to submit personal comments to provide additional details and thoughts.

The HHSC Council looks forward to working with the Sunset Commission and the Legislature as the Sunset process continues.

Sincerely,

Bal Ruszmo

Ben G. Raimer, M.D.

CC: Kyle L. Janek, M.D., Executive Commissioner Texas Health and Human Services Commission