

STATE OF TEXAS  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



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**JAMES WHITE**  
DISTRICT 19

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Dear Sunset Advisory Commission Members,

Thank you for your service on the Texas Sunset Advisory Commission and in particular your work in strengthening the services provided by the Health and Human Services Commission. Cherie Stanley, one of my constituents, is the loving foster parent for Annie Stanley. Annie is impacted Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD). Recently, Mrs. Stanley has taken some time to visit with me and highlight the challenges of this disease. One issue that Mrs. Stanley brought to my attention deals with the Texas Office for Prevention of Developmental Disabilities (TOPDD). According to Mrs. Stanley this agency provides valuable information regarding FASD prevention. The Sunset Review Commission's staff report recommends that TOPDD lose its independent status of being administratively attached to HHSC and instead to have its "functions" absorbed into HHSC.

Mrs. Cherie Stanley and other parents and advocates are concerned that if TOPDD is "absorbed" into HHSC, this action will inhibit its ability to receive private donations. Additionally, Mrs. Stanley is concerned that Sunset's recommendation would marginalize the great work that TOPDD is doing now in regards to providing information on preventive measures.

Although I am supportive of the Sunset Commission's efforts to enhance efficiency and thereby increase effectiveness, I want to work with you to ensure that we allow the functions of TOPDD to continue to operate proficiently. I believe that an arrangement that allows TOPDD to report directly to the HHS Commissioner and maintain financial involvement will ensure that this agency will continue its work effectively on behalf of the State of Texas.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. White".

James White  
State Representative  
House District 19