-----Original Message-----
From: sundrupal@capitol.local [mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local]
Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2018 7:53 AM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Agency: TEXAS STATE BOARD EXAMINERS PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS

First Name: J

Last Name: Fischer

Title: Licesnsed Professional Counselor

Organization you are affiliated with:

Email:

City: San Antonio and Austin

State: Texas

Your Comments About the Staff Report, Including Recommendations Supported or
Opposed: I do not support the formation of the Behavioral Health Executive Council to house the regulatory agencies governing the licenses of LPCs, LMFTs, Social Workers, and Psychologists. The act to do so appears to overlook clear distinctions between the roles and responsibilities of each independent license, while failing to respect the competitive and, at times adversarial, relationship that has historically existed between these professions. Lack of independent governance may render one or more agencies vulnerable to sublimation and prioritization of the political goals/agenda of one agency over the others. The act may additionally undermine the efforts of licensees to further develop and advance professional identity specific to their licensing agency. Professional members of the board may be underrepresented in favor of public members who are not sensitive to the distinctions between each agency and its functions.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: I recommend that each licensing agency retain independence under the umbrella of the Behavioral Health Executive Council and that the BHEC be responsible for the design, implementation and oversight of homogenous standards to which each board would be made and held accountable. I believe it is the onus of each independent licensing agency to protect the fate of its profession and retain the autonomy and self-directedness to most effectively do so.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree