

Cecelia Hartley

From: Edward S. Johnson
Sent: Monday, November 24, 2008 5:13 PM
To: Sunset
Subject: abolishment of TYC and TJPC

Ladies and Gentlemen: I am the Juvenile Court Judge of Bell Co., Texas and have served in that capacity since Jan. 1987. Having read the Sunset Advisory's Report and its recommendations, I believe, based on my experience with both TYC and TJPC, that abolishment of these agencies is absolutely uncalled for and would be a detriment to the children of Texas. Having worked with both agencies for many years and personally witnessed their collective commitments to better the lives of the children they serve, and having twenty-nine (29) years experience in working with these children, I've been here long enough to have witnessed numerous remarkable turnarounds in children committed to their care. Furthermore, to recommend abolishment of these agencies when they have had less than eighteen months to implement the massive changes mandated by the Legislature in June, 2007 is not only short-sighted, but also appears to be nothing more than "scapegoating" upper management of these agencies, who, not withstanding inadequate funding in past legislative sessions, continue to work tirelessly to carry out the legislative mandates and turn these children into responsible and constructive citizens.

Edward S. Johnson, Presiding Judge