

110TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
JUVENILE BOARD



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November 24, 2008

Sunset Advisory Commission  
Joey Langley, Director  
P. O. box 13066  
Austin, TX 78711

Dear Mr. Langley:

We, the Juvenile Board and the Chief Juvenile Probation Officer for the 110<sup>th</sup> Judicial District, which encompasses Floyd, Briscoe, Dickens and Motley Counties in West Texas, would like to express our grave reservations and concerns about the recent Sunset Commission Staff recommendations.

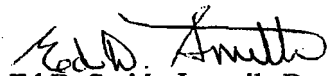
In regard to the first issue, Staff Recommendation 1.1– and probably the most significant issue – we strongly oppose the abolition of The Texas Juvenile Probation Commission and any effort to combine the Probation Commission with TYC. History has shown that TJPC and the local Juvenile Probation Departments have performed well and are utilizing a great number of successful and evidence-based programs to rehabilitate juvenile offenders, as well as work with their families. If this were not the case, the commitment rate (5%) to TYC would be immeasurably higher than your numbers indicate. We are also concerned about additional financial burden these changes could thrust on small rural counties that are already struggling to provide services.

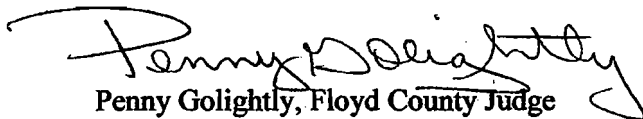
We agree that TYC has many problems and should be restructured but this should not be imposed on TJPC and the Juvenile Probation Departments who are functioning efficiently and effectively. If the TYC program is properly reorganized and administered, this should provide a huge fiscal savings to the state. When the two entities were originally begun, they had separate and distinct missions, and this is still true and appropriate today. Combining the agencies would not necessarily “fix” TYC, but it could transfer the problems which would inhibit the effectiveness now being experienced by TJPC and Juvenile Probation departments.

Ed D. Smith, Motley Co. Judge and Board Chair  
Penny Golightly, Floyd Co. Judge – Wayne Nance, Briscoe County Judge  
Lesa Arnold, Dickens Co. Judge – William Smith, 110<sup>th</sup> District Judge

In consideration of the above stated concerns, we believe that the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission is effectively fulfilling its mission and we respectfully request that the Sunset Commission reject this recommendation of its staff and that the Sunset Commission recommend to the Legislature that the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission remain as a state agency.

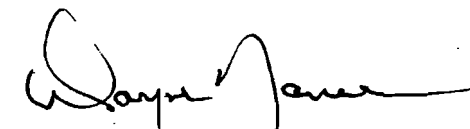
Sincerely,


  
Ed D. Smith, Juvenile Board Chair  
110<sup>th</sup> Judicial District

  
Penny Golightly, Floyd County Judge

  
Lesa Arnold, Dickens County Judge

  
Reba L. Moore, Chief JPO

  
Wayne Nance, Briscoe County Judge

  
William P. Smith, District Judge

Ed D. Smith, Board Chair  
Penny Golightly, Floyd Co. Judge – Wayne Nance, Briscoe County Judge  
Lesa Arnold, Dickens Co. Judge – William Smith, 110<sup>th</sup> District Judge