

Crystal Koeneman

From: Evelyn Bass <evelyntherese@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 8, 2018 10:19 PM
To: Rep. Mike Chenault; Rep. Louise Stutes; Rep. Colleen Sullivan-Leonard; Rep. Andy Josephson; Rep. Sam Kito; Rep. Adam Wool; Rep. Chris Birch; Rep. Gary Knopp; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Justin Parish; Sen. Dennis Egan
Subject: Please support continued massage licensure

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Legislator,

Please support the continuation of the Massage Therapy Licensing Bill.

As a massage therapist, I **appreciate the legitimization of my profession**. The regulation provided by licensure ensures the **quality and safety** of massage practiced within Alaska.

As a patient, I know that requiring quality education benefits everyone. I had a chronic knee problem that was impacting my ability to walk up and down stairs, especially after exercising. Before trying more expensive interventions, my provider referred me for massage. **One session with a highly qualified therapist resolved my issue**. The knee pain I had for a year is completely gone (and has remained resolved for over eight months, so far).

Continued licensing benefits myself and the public in the following ways:

- Oversight by a board of their peers provides the public with a high degree of confidence that their therapists are qualified to treat the conditions or issues that they seek treatment for.
- Knowing that my therapist has to meet continuing education requirements means that they keep learning and evolving as therapists. This means that quality of services stays high- something important to me in a healthcare provider.
- As a profession governed by a board, Massage Therapists can bill insurance. With the costs of healthcare rising, it is important to me that my insurance cover as many services as possible. Massage therapy is an integral part of my healthcare. Continued oversight by a board for massage therapists is important to me.

As my elected official I ask that you support the continuation of the Massage Therapy Licensing Bill as it makes its way through committee and eventually to the floor for a vote.

Thank you for your support in this matter,

Evelyn Bass

Juneau, AK 99801

Crystal Koeneman

From: Kimberly Robson <juneaumassages@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 9, 2018 11:35 AM
To: Rep. Chris Birch; Rep. Mike Chenault; Sen. Dennis Egan; Rep. Justin Parish; Rep. Andy Josephson; Rep. Gary Knopp; Rep. Sam Kito; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Louise Stutes; Rep. Colleen Sullivan-Leonard
Subject: Massage Licensing Support

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Legislator,

Please support the continuation of the Massage Therapy Licensing Bill. As a patient, I appreciate knowing that there are safeguards in place for me that ensure that I receive quality, educated and regulated care. Continued licensing benefits myself and the public in the following ways:

Oversight by a board of their peers provides the public with a high degree of confidence that their therapists are qualified to treat the conditions or issues that they seek treatment for.

Knowing that my therapist has to meet continuing education requirements means that they keep learning and evolving as therapists. This means that quality of services stays high- something important to me in a healthcare provider.

As a profession governed by a board, Massage Therapists can bill insurance. With the costs of healthcare rising, it is important to me that my insurance cover as many services as possible, as efficiently as possible. Massage therapy is less invasive and less costly than most other interventions. Massage therapy is an integral part of healthcare. Continued oversight by a board for massage therapists is important to me.

As my elected official I ask that you support the continuation of the Massage Therapy Licensing Bill as it makes its way through committee and eventually to the floor for a vote.

Thank you for your support in this matter,

Kimberly Robson

Juneau, AK 99801

Crystal Koeneman

From: Bob Marshall <marshall.bob2@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 11, 2018 11:22 AM
To: Rep. Sam Kito
Subject: Massage Licensing Bill
Attachments: Massage Bill Kito.docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Representative Sam Kito

Jan 11, 2018

Representative.Sam.Kito.III@akleg.gov

State Capitol Room 403

Juneau AK, 99801

Representative Kito,

I am writing to ask that you fully support continued licensing for Massage Therapists. I have realized therapeutic benefits from massage for over 20 years, and have enjoyed a more physically active and pain-free life than could have been possible otherwise. A key to the benefits I have enjoyed is the availability of competent, trained therapists. Without licensing, there are no safeguards to assure that a patient might receive quality care.

I believe that continued licensing benefits myself and the public in the following ways:

- Oversight by a board of their peers provides the public with a high degree of confidence that their therapists are qualified to treat the conditions or issues that they seek treatment for.
- Knowing that my therapist has to meet continuing education requirements means that they keep learning and evolving as therapists. This means that quality of services stays high- something important to me in a healthcare provider.
- As a profession governed by a board, Massage Therapists can bill insurance. With the costs of healthcare rising, it is important to me that my insurance cover as many services as possible. Massage therapy is an integral part of my healthcare. Continued oversight by a board for massage therapists is important to me.

As my elected official I ask that you support the continuation of the Massage Therapy Licensing Bill as it makes its way through committee and eventually to the floor for a vote. Thank you for your support in this matter,

Robert Marshall

Juneau AK 99801

Email: marshall.bob2@gmail.com

Crystal Koeneman

From: Mari <mkdyson@gci.net>
Sent: Thursday, January 11, 2018 8:48 PM
To: Rep. Mike Chenault; Rep. Louise Stutes; Rep. Colleen Sullivan-Leonard; Rep. Andy Josephson; Rep. Sam Kito; Rep. Adam Wool; Rep. Chris Birch; Rep. Gary Knopp; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; representative.justin.parish@akeg.gov; Sen. Dennis Egan
Subject: Massage Therapy Licensing Bill

Dear House Labor and Commerce Committee Members and
Juneau Delegation,

I am writing in support of continued licensing for Massage Therapists in the State of Alaska. I have lived in this state for more than 24 years and have used massage services for at least that long - here in Juneau and my previous residences out of State. As you know, massage therapy involves very close and direct physical contact between the therapist and the client. I do not in any way agree that anyone should be allowed to practice as a massage therapist without licensing requirements or oversight of a Board. As a massage patient, I very much value knowing that there are safeguards in place for me that ensure I receive safe, quality, educated and regulated care. Continued oversight by a Board for massage therapists is important to me. Very important to me.

As my elected official I ask that you support the continuation of the Massage Therapy Licensing Bill as it makes its way through committee and eventually to the floor for a vote. Thank you for your service to the State of Alaska and for your support in this matter.

Very Respectfully,
Mari Meiners
Juneau, AK

TLC Massage Therapy
Traci K Gilmour, LMT
AK License #102012



January 17, 2018

Representative Sam Kito
State Capitol Room 403
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: HB275

I am writing you to request that you support HB275 which supports the Extension of the Alaska Board of Massage Therapists. I support the work of the Board and ask for your support in moving this bill through committee.

I live in Juneau and have practiced Massage Therapy for 23 years. I work in a chiropractic office and am sole proprietor of TLC Massage Therapy, a private studio.

Due to continuing education requirements that did not exist prior to AS 08.61, therapists have increased knowledge and are better able to serve their clients and patients. Medical massage is more available due to a better understanding of how to approach dysfunction in soft tissue. Education requirements have created opportunities for therapists that may no longer practice massage but desire to continue to work in the field and have become instructors or billing specialists. A better understanding of how massage can enhance wellness and have a positive effect on daily living has become available to clients, patients and medical professionals. A door has opened to conversations that did not readily exist prior to the law coming into effect.

Due to the Board's statutory requirements Standards of Practice have been adopted as well as regulations that did not exist prior to the statute thus creating a better understanding by the therapist of what is expected which in turn creates a safer setting for the consumer to receive massage.

I would appreciate your support moving this bill through.

Thank you,

Traci K Gilmour, LMT
TLC Massage Therapy
Juneau, Alaska

Crystal Koeneman

From: Cheri Zepp <cherizepp@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 18, 2018 10:03 PM
To: Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Sam Kito; Rep. Justin Parish; Sen. Dennis Egan; Rep. Gary Knopp; Rep. Chris Birch; Rep. Adam Wool; Rep. Andy Josephson; Rep. Colleen Sullivan-Leonard; Rep. Louise Stutes; Rep. Mike Chenault
Subject: Support of HB275

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Representatives,

I am writing in support of HB275. I have been a massage therapist in the State of Alaska for 14 years. I have owned a large massage business here in Juneau, and am currently practicing on my own in downtown Juneau.

I am in support of the continuation of the massage board. This has only been two years, and we need to allow the board to continue to grow. I feel confident in our board and hope that we can pass HB275 and continue the board's work.

I respectfully ask for your support and passage of HB275.

Thank you for your consideration,
Cheri Zepp,

Juneau, AK 99801

Crystal Koeneman

From: Rebecca Van De Water <rebecca@earthsongwellbeing.com>
Sent: Friday, January 19, 2018 10:30 AM
Subject: Massage Therapy Licensing Bill

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Legislator,

Please support the continuation of the Massage Therapy Licensing Bill.

As a Nurse Practitioner, I appreciate knowing that there are safeguards in place that ensure that my patients receive quality, educated and regulated care.

Continued licensing benefits myself and the public in the following ways:

- Oversight by a board of their peers provides the public with a high degree of confidence that their therapists are qualified to treat the conditions or issues that they seek treatment for.
- Knowing that a massage therapist has to meet continuing education requirements means that they keep learning and evolving as healthcare professionals. This means that the quality of service stays high- something important to me when I refer patients for therapeutic care.

As my elected official, I ask that you support the continuation of the Massage Therapy Licensing Bill as it makes its way through committee and eventually to the floor for a vote.

Thank you for your support in this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me as needed.

Sincerely,

Rebecca M. Van De Water, ANP, CNM

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Rebecca M. Van De Water, ANP, CNM

EarthSong Integrative Medicine and Midwifery, LLC

www.earthsongwellbeing.com

Tel 907.419.9042 Fax 907.586.8698

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From: Caitlin Sparks Rose Waters KPMT
To: [Rep. Sam Kito](#)
Subject: Support HB275
Date: Friday, January 19, 2018 3:54:19 PM

Dear Representative Mr. Kito,

We would like to express our support for HB275 and the extension of the Board of Massage therapists. Kenai Peninsula Massage Therapy is a new business in Soldotna that has been made possible because of licensing in Alaska. We feel the board brings legitimacy our profession as massage therapists as health care providers.

We appreciate the boards hard work that helps make our business possible.

Thank you,

Caitlin Sparks and Rose Waters
Owners of Kenai Peninsula Massage Therapy



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**

GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

**Department of Commerce, Community,
and Economic Development**

BOARD OF MASSAGE THERAPISTS

P.O. Box 110806
Juneau, AK 99811-0806
Main: 907.465.2550

January 19, 2018

Hon. Sam Kito III
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol Room 403
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Kito:

Thank you for sponsoring House Bill 275 extending the Board of Massage Therapists. The Division of Legislative Audit has recently completed its first audit of the Alaska Board of Massage Therapists. The state auditor recommends the extension of this board to June 22, 2022. The board is in support of this extension as we continue to serve the public interest. We look forward to a stronger and more efficient program because of this audit.

The profession of massage therapy is very diverse and unique in the healthcare field. I thought it would be beneficial to answer some basic questions legislators may have about the massage therapy profession and our board accomplishments.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,
David Edwards-Smith

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Edwards-Smith", written over a white rectangular background.

Chair, Alaska Board of Massage Therapists

Information about the Board of Massage Therapists and HB 275

David Edwards-Smith, Chair

January 19, 2018

What is a Massage Therapist?

Because of state licensing, a massage therapist is recognized as a legitimate healthcare professional. These health care professionals use hands-on manual techniques to effect a client's soft tissues to enhance function or promote well-being. The field of massage therapy is comprised of hundreds of techniques including expertise in spa related relaxation and expertise in orthopedic and medical related massage.

Why do we need the Board of Massage Therapists?

The board is comprised of five members, four of which are licensed and highly trained massage therapy professionals. This team of professionals have an invaluable combination of experience and knowledge to make informed decisions that serve the public interest. These members, which have been carefully selected by the governor and ratified by the Alaska State Legislature, have the unique ability to navigate the complexities of this diverse group of licensees. The Board of Massage Therapists uses its experience to make informed decisions as it reviews new applicants, education curriculum, continued education of renewing applications, case investigations, regulation projects, and statutory recommendations. Only a board of experienced members of the public with careers as massage professionals can effectively navigate the nuances of the program and respond timely to practice changes.

The Board of Massage Therapists is expected to understand the standards of practice and code of ethics in the context of the techniques performed by massage therapists in a variety of settings. Massage therapists are employed in spa settings, chiropractic clinics, physical therapy clinics and fitness centers. The education required to practice massage therapy is a gateway to opportunities for a career in a variety of situations. With a standard of practice code of ethics now in place, the public can be assured that there is a process for complaints to be addressed if there is a suspected violation. In partnership with the Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing, the board uses their collective experience to ensure public safety.

Board Accomplishments Since Its Inception in 2015

2015

- **The board began training and meeting.**
- **The board began approving transitional licenses.** One of the many tasks the board is responsible for is approving all license applications. During the legislative hearings on whether to license this industry, the Alaska Massage Therapy Association indicated there were approximately 600 massage therapists practicing in Alaska. That estimate was below

50% of the actual number; so far, more than 1,400 applications have been processed resulting in over 1,100 licenses being issued. Applications for licensure go through an investigations process to determine if they are falsified or the applicant's criminal background is in question. More than 50 applications have been forwarded to the division for investigation. Ten applicants have been denied licensure due to prostitution or other crimes of moral turpitude, and one license has been revoked for inappropriate touching of clients.

- **The board has reached out to boards in other states to learn best practices.** Being a new board, with a new licensing law, we recognized a need to draw on the experience of others. Alaska has been a member of the Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards since September 2015. Each year one person attends the conference. So far two board members and the program's only dedicated staff member have networked with other state boards around the nation to learn to create better regulations and get an improved understanding of what issues other states are facing. The goal is to better inform our licensees and better serve our population.

2016

- **The board has worked with similar industries to share knowledge and to mature the program.** In January, the board was lobbied by Rolfers to state their stance on the Rolfig exemption and to seek support in pursuit of their own licensing. The board has sent written support and verbally encouraged their path to obtaining their own licensing.
- **In December, the board drafted statute changes and sought sponsorship to increase required massage training hours for new applicants.** HB110 was introduced in Alaska State Legislature in January 2017. After public testimony by massage therapists, the board reduced the proposed increase from 750 to 625 hours, which is consistent with national recommendations.
- **Two members of the board were reappointed and confirmed.**
- **As required by statute, the board created, amended, and adopted regulations to implement Standards of Practice and a Code of Ethics.**
- **Members of the board have met with the FBI and Department of Labor and Workforce Development regarding human trafficking in Alaska.** Human trafficking in the massage industry is a nationwide issue which impacts all massage therapists. Obtaining licensure was an important step for Alaskan massage therapists in changing public perceptions toward our profession. Since 2016, members of the board have been networking with The Innocence Project (<https://www.innocenceproject.org/>) and Polaris (<https://polarisproject.org/>) to reduce human trafficking in our industry.

2017

- **In March, HB145 was introduced. This bill would remove fingerprinting requirements and provide exemptions for therapists in rural Alaska where fingerprinting services are not available.** Eliminating all fingerprinting limits the board's

ability to screen out of state applicants for crimes of moral turpitude. The board supports this legislation with minor amendments.

- **The Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing has worked with the Department of Public Safety and licensees to rapidly—but safely--issue licenses.** The online renewal process for 2017 was seamless. As of December of 2017, the Division has processed 1,403 applications for massage therapy licensure.
- **The board's audit by the Division of Legislative Audit concluded that the "board was operating in the public's interest" and it is recommended that the board's sunset date be moved to June 30, 2022.**
- **One board member worked with the Apprenticeship Task Force and Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development to create a massage apprenticeship program as required by statute.** On November 30, 2017, the board adopted an apprenticeship program model that resulted regulations requiring apprenticeship programs to meet certain national standards.
- **On December 1, 2017, the board adopted guidelines for discipline and barrier crimes as requested by the division and the Department of Law.** There are currently no lawsuits filed nor have there been any since the board was formed in 2015.
- **Since its formation, the board has worked hard to hear and give support to massage therapist's requests.** The majority of concerns are regarding fees, continuing education hours, and fingerprinting. The board has received hours of public comment and has responded by requesting the division reduce licensing fees twice. The cost of fees has been reduced from \$610.00 in 2015 to \$550.00 in 2017. Seeing a problem with the bloodborne pathogens education requirement and upon receiving complaints from applicants and licensees, the board is seeking to reduce the requirement to two required CEU's.
- **The board has worked diligently to keep expenses down by decreasing travel costs and increasing the use of teleconferencing/videoconferencing.** The role of a board member is a voluntary position, and board members do not receive per diem for teleconference meetings.

What To Expect In 2018

- **The board is currently researching massage curriculum in order to help applicants determine if their schools and curriculum are eligible to be considered for licensing.** A subcommittee meeting was held on January 1, 2018, via teleconference, and the topic is expected to be resolved at the board's next regular meeting in March.
- **The public can expect monthly newsletters that inform subscribers of board activity.**
- **The next face-to-face meeting of the Board of Massage Therapists will be held in Juneau on March 8-9, 2018.** Once the location has been determined, the meeting will be publicly noticed on the state website and in *Anchorage Daily News*.

Dear Representatives,

Ref.: HB 275 - “An Act extending the termination date of the Board of Massage Therapists; and providing for an effective date.” Sponsored by Chenault/Kito.

I am writing to inform you that I fully support the extension of HB 275 for the continuation of the Licensing Board of Massage Therapy. Oversight by a board is not only beneficial for the therapist, but the general public as well. We recognize proper oversight ensures that all health care providers, in addition to the public, can have confidence that massage therapists have been vetted appropriately and are being held to the same high professional standards, including ethics, HIPPA and continuing education as the State of Alaska does all other associated health care providers.

I have been a Massage Therapist in Anchorage for 15 years, and am a Co-owner of a Medical Massage Therapy clinic in Anchorage. I have been very grateful for, and pleased with, the expectations of the Board in holding Therapists to a high standard of ethics and continuing education to qualify for State Licensure. We now have a State Board which holds us to a unified standard of care which allows qualified applicants to become credentialed and recognized with many major insurance companies. This allows our patients to receive specialized treatment outlined by their referring physician by utilizing their insurance benefits. This makes a huge difference in our patients well-being by eliminating the stress and anxiety associated with their health care costs and provides a reduction in demand within the health care system overall.

Thank you for your support regarding the extension of HB 275.

Bria Burningham, LMT
Advanced Body Solutions, Inc

Anchorage, Alaska 99501

From: [Edric Carrillo](#)
To: [Caitlyn Ellis](#)
Subject: FW: HB 275 - Yes
Date: Monday, January 22, 2018 9:16:27 AM

Edric Carrillo
Legislative Aide
Office of Representative Kito
Alaska State Capitol, Room 403
Juneau, Alaska 99801
(907)465-4766

From: Pierre Morrisette [mailto:petemorrisette@icloud.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 21, 2018 9:26 PM
To: Rep. Bryce Edgmon <Rep.Bryce.Edgmon@akleg.gov>; Rep. Louise Stutes <Rep.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chris Birch <Rep.Chris.Birch@akleg.gov>; Rep. Gary Knopp <Rep.Gary.Knopp@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mike Chenault <Rep.Mike.Chenault@akleg.gov>; Rep. Adam Wool <Rep.Adam.Wool@akleg.gov>; Rep. Sam Kito <Rep.Sam.Kito@akleg.gov>; Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Colleen Sullivan-Leonard <Rep.Colleen.Sullivan-Leonard@akleg.gov>
Cc: Rep. Sam Kito <Rep.Sam.Kito@akleg.gov>; Rep. Justin Parish <Rep.Justin.Parish@akleg.gov>; Sen. Dennis Egan <Sen.Dennis.Egan@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB 275 - Yes

Dear House Labor and Commerce Committee,

Regarding HB 275, I am writing to you as a patient and Alaska resident to let you know I support continuing licensing for massage therapists.

I moved to Juneau from Seattle in 1998 and was accustomed in **Seattle** to receiving quality massage from licensed massage therapists for my chronic back back pain. In Juneau this proved more difficult as I had to do research and find therapists maintaining a license in another state but living in Juneau. My health is too important to not be served by a licensed professional massage therapist. **Licensing in Alaska has provided this peace of mind.**

Additionally, I'm in favor of having a board for oversight. I think this makes sense for any profession with a health or therapeutic focus.

Thanks for your consideration,
Pete Morrisette

Juneau, AK 99801

From: [Edric Carrillo](#)
To: [Caitlyn Ellis](#)
Subject: FW: HB 275 Extending the termination date of the Board of Massage Therapists
Date: Monday, January 22, 2018 9:14:54 AM

From: Jane Gnass [mailto:janegnass@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 21, 2018 5:25 PM
To: Rep. Sam Kito <Rep.Sam.Kito@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB 275 Extending the termination date of the Board of Massage Therapists

Greetings Representative Kito,

As a Licensed Massage Therapist in private practice for 20 years in Anchorage, and Alaska Board Certified since 2015, I encourage you to extend the termination date for the Board of Massage Therapists.

The process of applying and maintaining state Board Certification is by design a way to weed out unqualified persons and curb illegal activities, such as human trafficking. The Board has unified our profession state-wide, and elevated our work in the healthcare field, allowing therapists to bill medical insurance directly. Requiring a high level of training by accredited national schools also ensures consistent standards state-wide, directly benefiting healthcare consumers.

Please extend the termination date of the Board of Massage Therapists.

Thank you for your service.

Sincerely,

Jane Gnass, LMT, BCTMB
(State) Licensed Massage Therapist & Board Certified
(Nationally) Board Certified in Therapeutic Massage & Bodywork
Professional Member AMTA since 1998

Jane Gnass dba Body Wisdom

Anchorage, AK 99508

From: [Edric Carrillo](#)
To: [Caitlyn Ellis](#)
Subject: FW: Massage Board sunset
Date: Monday, January 22, 2018 9:15:55 AM

From: Derek Brasch [mailto:dbrasch81@gmail.com]

Sent: Sunday, January 21, 2018 5:51 PM

To: Rep. Justin Parish <Rep.Justin.Parish@akleg.gov>; Rep. Sam Kito <Rep.Sam.Kito@akleg.gov>; Rep. Bryce Edgmon <Rep.Bryce.Edgmon@akleg.gov>; Rep. Gary Knopp <Rep.Gary.Knopp@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chris Birch <Rep.Chris.Birch@akleg.gov>; Rep. Adam Wool <Rep.Adam.Wool@akleg.gov>; Rep. Sam Kito <Rep.Sam.Kito@akleg.gov>; Rep. Colleen Sullivan-Leonard <Rep.Colleen.Sullivan-Leonard@akleg.gov>; Rep. Louise Stutes <Rep.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov>; Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>; Sen. Dennis Egan <Sen.Dennis.Egan@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mike Chenault <Rep.Mike.Chenault@akleg.gov>

Subject: Massage Board sunset

Dear Representative,

I am writing to tell you that I fully support continued licensing for Massage Therapist. Before licensing was required in Alaska, many therapists had little to no training requirements. As a patient I appreciate knowing that there are safeguards in place for me that ensure that I receive quality, educated and regulated care.

I believe that continued licensing benefits myself and the public in the following ways:

- Oversight by a board of their peers provides the public with a high degree of confidence that their therapists are qualified to treat the conditions or issues that they seek treatment for.
- Knowing that my therapist has to meet continuing education requirements means that they keep learning and evolving as therapists. This means that quality of services stays high-something important to me in a healthcare provider.
- As a profession governed by a board, Massage Therapists can bill insurance. With the costs of healthcare rising, it is important to me that my insurance cover as many services as possible. Massage therapy is an integral part of my healthcare. Continued oversight by a board for massage therapists is important to me.

As my elected official I ask that you support the continuation of the Massage Therapy Licensing Bill as it makes its way through committee and eventually to the floor for a vote.

Thank you for your support in this matter,

Committee members to contact (House Labor and Commerce is first committee that will hear the bill):

House Labor and Commerce Committee

Representative Mike Chenault Representative.Mike.Chenault@akleg.gov 800-469-3779

Representative Louise Stutes Representative.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov 800-865-2487

Representative Colleen Sullivan-Leonard Representative.Colleen.Sullivan-Leonard@akleg.gov 800-782-4833

Representative Andy Josephson Representative.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov 800-465-4939

Representative Sam Kito: Representative.Sam.Kito@akleg.gov 877-465-4766

Representative Adam Wool Representative.Adam.Wool@akleg.gov 866-465-4976

Representative Chris Birch Representative.Chris.Birch@akleg.gov 800-870-4931
Representative Gary Knopp Representative.Gary.Knopp@akleg.gov 800-463-2693
Representative Bryce Edgmon Representative.Bryce.Edgmon@akleg.gov 800-898-4451
Juneau Legislators
Representative Sam Kito: Representative.Sam.Kito.III@akleg.gov 877-465-4766
Representative Justin Parrish: Representative.Justin.Parish@akleg.gov 800-968-6744
Senator Dennis Egan: Senator.Dennis.Egan@akleg.gov 855-465-4947

Thank you for your time,

Derek Brasch, LMT

From: [Edric Carrillo](#)
To: [Caitlyn Ellis](#)
Subject: FW: Massage Board
Date: Monday, January 22, 2018 9:14:11 AM

From: jenmark [mailto:jenmark@eagle.ptialaska.net]
Sent: Saturday, January 20, 2018 2:40 PM
To: Rep. Sam Kito <Rep.Sam.Kito@akleg.gov>
Subject: Massage Board

Dear Mr. Kito,

I would like to voice my support for the Massage Therapy Board. I believe they are doing a good job for the massage therapists in the state. Having a licensing board to answer to gives them a validity that helps them bill insurance companies for their services. Even though, as a Rolfer, I am exempt from this. ...I can see the benefits of having this board. Thank-you for this consideration, Sincerely, Jenisse Markham, Certified Advanced Rolfer.

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

From: [Edric Carrillo](#)
To: [Caitlyn Ellis](#)
Subject: FW: Support for HB275
Date: Monday, January 22, 2018 9:16:18 AM

Edric Carrillo
Legislative Aide
Office of Representative Kito
Alaska State Capitol, Room 403
Juneau, Alaska 99801
(907)465-4766

From: Cherri Bell [mailto:commonredpoll@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 21, 2018 8:49 PM
Subject: Support for HB275

Dear House Labor and Commerce Committee,

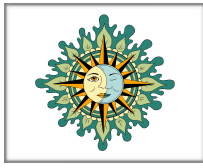
I am in support of HB 275. I think keeping the licensing and the board of massage therapists is a good idea, because as a practicing massage therapist I have benefited from licensure. It has opened up opportunities in terms of where I work and the amount of control I get to have over my work environment which I did not have before. I have experienced being taken more seriously as a health care provider and I have also been pleased that quality continuing education (due to the continuing education requirement) has come to Alaska, which benefits the state economy.

I respect the work the board has done on behalf of my chosen profession.

I have been a massage therapist in Alaska for 20 years, I live in Juneau and I work at Dr. Dan Holt's office and Wellspring Integrative Medical Center.

Thank you for all your time and all that you do.

Cherri Bell LMT #101401



Alaska Orthopedic Massage

11723 Old Glenn Hwy Ste 205, Eagle River, AK 99577

January 21, 2018

Dear Legislators,

I am in support of maintaining the Alaska State Board of Massage Therapy. As a registered nurse and massage therapist, public safety is of utmost concern to me.

The establishment of the law and board that licenses and oversees massage therapy in Alaska is a vital part of protecting the public on many levels. It establishes a means of separating ill intended sex trafficking and prostitution parlors from the legitimate educated massage therapy businesses. It provides the public with therapists that have proven they have attended a massage therapy school and have passed an exam that tests a level of knowledge and competency required to do no harm. This is the key point, "do no harm". Without proper training, people who seek massage for help with medical conditions are at risk for injury. In the United States, the practice of massage therapy has expanded from a relaxing Swedish massage into an evidence based therapeutic modality utilized as a healthcare treatment for many patient conditions. Physicians are writing prescriptions for massage therapy, insurances are covering massage as a therapy. The law needs to remain in place as a means of protecting the public from people claiming they are a massage therapists when they have not received the proper training in anatomy, physiology, kinesiology, contraindications for massage therapy, universal precautions, and correct and effective massage techniques.

If anything, I believe the standards within the law need to be tighter. There are far too many people that are exempt under this bill. The one issue I do agree with for many therapists is that it is way too expensive for this license and fingerprinting every at every renewal is excessive. The goal is to license therapists and protect the public. The goal is not to make the profession out of reach due to government costs. With that said, it is no reason to eliminate the need for the law and oversight of the profession. I hope that steps are taken to reduce costs and make the license more affordable to therapists in Alaska.

I appreciate your time and would like to go on record as a supporter of maintaining the Alaska Massage Therapy license and board oversight.

Thank you,

Samantha Taylor, RN, LMT, BCTMB

②

RON GIBBS LMT 101414

539 Visna Way, Kodiak AK. 99615 | (907)539-2339 | healingharbor@icloud.com

1/19/18

Representative Stutes

Dear Representative Stutes:

I have been a massage therapist in Kodiak for the past 13 years. I fully support the reauthorization of the Alaska Board of massage therapists. Having a board comprised of massage therapists helps ensure that regulations and policies are made by people who know and understand our profession. A regulatory board ensures that there is a consistency and continuity in procedures.

The massage therapy board accomplished many things during the first two years of the program even though they've incurred four changes in examiners during that time and processed over twice the number of applications as was predicted. Now that the initial licensing process has been completed, the Board can continue work on meeting its statutory requirements of providing public safety by setting and maintain industry standards for the massage therapy industry in Alaska.

Included with this letter are signed signatures from Kodiak massage clients supporting the continued licensing and regulation by the Alaska Board of Massage Therapy.

Sincerely,



Ron Gibbs LMT 101414

cc: Representative Sam Kito

(78) 5

Massage Therapy License Bill

We fully support continued licensing for Massage Therapists in the state of Alaska. Before licensing was required in Alaska, many therapists had little to no training requirements. As a patient, I appreciate knowing that there are safeguards in place for me that ensure that I get quality, educated and regulated care.

I believe that continued licensing benefits myself and the public in the following ways:

- Oversight by a board of their peers provides the public with a high degree of confidence that their therapists are qualified to treat the conditions or issues that they seek treatment for.
- Knowing that my therapist has to meet continuing education requirements means that they keep learning and evolving as therapists. This means that quality of services stays high—something important to me in a healthcare provider.
- As a profession governed by a board, Massage Therapists can bill insurance. With the costs of healthcare rising, it is important to me that my insurance cover as many services as possible. Massage therapy is an integral part of my healthcare. Continued oversight by a board for massage therapists is important to me.

As my elected official I ask that you support the continuation of the Massage Therapy Licensing Bill as it makes its way through committee and eventually to the floor for a vote. Thank you for your support in this matter,

Name	Address	Phone
<u>Ron Gibbs</u>	<u>539 Visna Way, Kodiak</u>	<u>539-2339</u>
<u>Larry Taylor</u>	<u>P.O. Box 1880</u>	<u>539-1110</u>
<u>Sharon Taylor</u>	<u>Box 1880</u>	<u>539-1110</u>
<u>Mae Tabay</u>	<u>1222 Seliefine St</u>	<u>539-5778</u>
<u>Les James</u>	<u>3019 Spruce Cape Rd.</u>	<u>942-3114</u>
<u>Tiffany De Los Angeles</u>	<u>2208A Barrett Cir</u>	<u>757-575-6118</u>
<u>Liz Naughton</u>	<u>1627 Mill Bay Rd</u>	<u>907-532-1741</u>
<u>Lucelia Graves</u>	<u>10742 Chinook Dr</u>	<u>907-654-9798</u>
<u>Patricia</u>	<u>Box 240</u>	<u>907-486-3641</u>
<u>Mae Garachitoren</u>	<u>618 Lower Mill Bay</u>	<u>(907) 654-4595</u>

⑤

Laurie Murdock 3272 Mill Bay 539-2124
 Laima Onnela P.O. Box 86 684-9905
 Sylvia Fernandez P.O. Box 2006 942-5704
 Peggy Ackerson Box 194 539-5057
 Melissa Mayhew P.O. Box 8627 942-5808
 Evelyn Davidson P.O. Box 746 486-4858
 DOLores LommiS 518 BONAPARTE CIR 512-0919
 Valerie Wilch 3431 Antonia Way 539-6456
 Jennifer Wilch P.O. Box 6552 209 712 945
 Karen Griffin 597 Sargent Creek Rd. 539-6466
 Merle Brown P.O. Box 66 539-5455
 Debra A Caravan 330 Shabaska Circle or 486-4837 539-7837
 Miranda Stohl 11354 S RUSSIAN CR (805) 550-7498
 Maureen Butler 42910 Chiniak Hwy (907) 539-2104
 S.J. Roberts 7205 PO Box 8534 539-5151
 CLIFF DAVIDSON 1802 MARMOT DR KODIAK 907-942-2967
 Kari Loring 1108 Madsen Ave Kodiak 907-512-6212
 Anna Arnold P.O. Box 1262 727-808-1893
 Terese L. Smith PO Box 8609 907-486-7008

⑤

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>Phone</u>
<u>CAROLINE GOODMAN</u>	<u>12350 NOCH DR</u>	<u>907-942-0479</u>
<u>Steven F. Yaskin</u>	<u>833 Preston Lane</u>	<u>907-487-2575</u>
<u>Kelly Young</u>	<u>Box 806-11108 Bldg. ^{FCS}</u>	<u>207-539-6311</u>
<u>Regan Mbir</u>	<u>PO Box 506 Kooliak AK</u>	<u>(907) 539-2088</u>
<u>Christine Johnson</u>	<u>P.O. Box 1278</u>	<u>907-942-7788</u>
<u>David Heuman</u>	<u>883 PRESTON LANE</u>	<u>907-350-2908</u>
<u>Patricia Gibbs</u>	<u>539 Visna Way</u>	<u>907-487-4096</u>
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Message Therapy License Bill

We fully support continued licensing for Massage Therapists in the state of Alaska. Before licensing was required in Alaska, many therapists had little to no training requirements. As a patient, I appreciate knowing that there are safeguards in place for me that ensure that I get quality, educated and regulated care.

I believe that continued licensing benefits myself and the public in the following ways:

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As my elected official I ask that you support the continuation of the Massage Therapy Licensing Bill as it makes its way through committee and eventually to the floor for a vote. Thank you for your support in this matter,

Name	Address	Phone
<u>Kim Raisley</u>	<u>235 Alder Way</u>	<u>539-1891</u>
<u>Kathy Wise</u>	<u>PO Box 82 - Kodiak</u>	<u>486-0081</u>
<u>Ayumi Sanders</u>	<u>3171 Spruce Cape Rd</u>	<u>907-420-242</u>
<u>Pasha Isadore</u>	<u>PO Box 33</u>	<u>539-2876</u>
<u>Lisa Frick</u>	<u>11568 Bells Flats Rd</u>	<u>208-201-2397</u>
<u>PANCHO VALLADOLID</u>	<u>P.O. Box 2934</u>	<u>(907) 885-4859</u>
<u>Sarah Skimin</u>	<u>11539 Women Bay Dr</u>	<u>654 9979</u>
<u>Bronwyn Simpler</u>	<u>3027 Mill Bay Rd</u>	<u>(907) 942-7741</u>
<u>Charles T. Simpler</u>	<u>3027 Mill Bay Rd</u>	<u>486-5897</u>

From: [Edric Carrillo](#)
To: [Caitlyn Ellis](#)
Subject: FW: Support of the bill being introduced on Monday, January 22 @ 3:15pm, to extend the Massage Board for 4 more years.
Date: Monday, January 22, 2018 1:55:04 PM

From: DJ Kyser [mailto:djkyser@gmail.com]

Sent: Monday, January 22, 2018 1:50 PM

To: Scott and Traci <stgilmour@gci.net>; Sam Kito III, P.E. <samkitope@gmail.com>; Rep. Sam Kito <Rep.Sam.Kito@akleg.gov>

Subject: Re: Support of the bill being introduced on Monday, January 22 @ 3:15pm, to extend the Massage Board for 4 more years.

To Whom It May Concern,

Please accept this letter as support for continuing the State of Alaska Massage Therapist Board. I have reviewed the recent audit and found that with any new licensing board, there is always a learning curve.

I agree with the auditors recommendation for continuation of the current board. I also understand that many other professional licensing boards have members that do not always agree with actions of either the board as a whole or of one board member.

This does not mean that the board should be dissolved or the board member be removed. I am always grateful for the opportunity for sharing one's concerns as this allows for all of us to learn and consider what is best for the profession.

I support the bill being introduced on Monday, January 22 @ 3:15pm in the first meeting of the House Labor and Commerce Committee is to extend the Massage Board for 4 more years.

Thank you for your time in reviewing this statement.

Diane Kyser, Massage Therapist
Artemis Enterprise

Juneau, AK 99802

Dear Representatives(s),

Ref.: HB 275 - "An Act extending the termination date of the Board of Massage Therapists; and providing for an effective date." Sponsored by Chenault and Keto.

I am writing to inform you that I fully support the extension of HB 275 (referenced above, submitted by Representative Chenault Keto), for the continuation of the Licensing Board of Massage Therapy. Oversight by a board is not only beneficial for the therapist, but the general public as well. We recognize proper oversight ensures that all health care providers, in addition to the public, can have confidence that massage therapists have been vetted appropriately and are being held to the same high professional standards, including ethics, HIPPA and continuing education as the State of Alaska does all other associated health care providers.

I have been a Licensed Massage Therapist for almost 30 years in total, a Paramedic and Flight Paramedic for 13 years and a Licensed Massage Therapist for the State of Alaska for 8 years. I co-own a business, Advanced Body Solutions Inc., located in the heart of downtown Anchorage. We currently employ eleven people at our clinic; seven highly trained therapists, two receptionists, one Evicore specialist and one biller. We are proud to be an integral part of Alaska's co-care provider team. We work intimately with multiple providers to provide an integrated, multidisciplinary approach towards caring for our patients. Our patient care is exemplary.

We now have a State Board which holds us to a unified standard of care which allows qualified applicants to become credentialed and recognized with many major insurance companies. This allows our patients to receive specialized treatment outlined by their referring physician by utilizing their insurance benefits. This makes a huge difference in our patients well-being by eliminating the stress and anxiety associated with their health care costs and provides a reduction in demand within the health care system overall.

At Advanced Body Solutions Inc., we strive to provide our patients with a higher level of care through our professionalism and we are proud of the strong relationships we have developed with both clients and insurance providers alike. We ensure our employees are afforded the opportunity to seek continuous

training and development (subsidized by the business) above and beyond the State's requirement for continuing education. Additionally, we now have the ability to provide and support our employees with a 401k policy. This demonstrates our investment in the people and State of Alaska, our employees and our patients that we care for, through our healthcare clinic.

Thank you for your support regarding the extension of HB 275.

Kimberly L. Verreydt LMT
Advanced Body Solutions, Inc

Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Dear

I am writing to tell you that I fully support continued licensing for Massage Therapist. Having my massage therapist be licensed and required to obtain continuing education is important to me because I have received medical massage in Juneau for more than 20 years. I have impaired vision and as a result, have had some bad falls due to not seeing curbs or other things in my path. I have given myself whiplash several times as well as other injuries. I have also had the standard wear and tear on my body that many people have as they age. Medical massage has helped with those issues enormously. I rely on regular massages for pain management and to improve my mobility.

I believe having an oversight board is essential to insuring that massage therapists are qualified. Continuing education enables massage therapists to stay current with new information and techniques as well as provides them opportunities to gain further education in specialized subjects

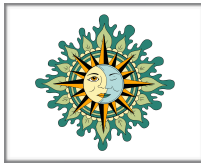
As my elected official I ask that you support the continuation of the Massage Therapy Licensing Bill as it makes its way through committee and eventually to the floor for a vote. Thank you for your support in this matter,

Susan Bump

9825 Lone Wolf Drive

Juneau, AK 99801

907-789-3990



Alaska Orthopedic Massage

11723 Old Glenn Hwy Ste 205, Eagle River, AK 99577

January 21, 2018

Dear Legislators,

I am in support of maintaining the Alaska State Board of Massage Therapy. As a registered nurse and massage therapist, public safety is of utmost concern to me.

The establishment of the law and board that licenses and oversees massage therapy in Alaska is a vital part of protecting the public on many levels. It establishes a means of separating ill intended sex trafficking and prostitution parlors from the legitimate educated massage therapy businesses. It provides the public with therapists that have proven they have attended a massage therapy school and have passed an exam that tests a level of knowledge and competency required to do no harm. This is the key point, "do no harm". Without proper training, people who seek massage for help with medical conditions are at risk for injury. In the United States, the practice of massage therapy has expanded from a relaxing Swedish massage into an evidence based therapeutic modality utilized as a healthcare treatment for many patient conditions. Physicians are writing prescriptions for massage therapy, insurances are covering massage as a therapy. The law needs to remain in place as a means of protecting the public from people claiming they are a massage therapists when they have not received the proper training in anatomy, physiology, kinesiology, contraindications for massage therapy, universal precautions, and correct and effective massage techniques.

If anything, I believe the standards within the law need to be tighter. There are far too many people that are exempt under this bill. The one issue I do agree with for many therapists is that it is way too expensive for this license and fingerprinting every at every renewal is excessive. The goal is to license therapists and protect the public. The goal is not to make the profession out of reach due to government costs. With that said, it is no reason to eliminate the need for the law and oversight of the profession. I hope that steps are taken to reduce costs and make the license more affordable to therapists in Alaska.

I appreciate your time and would like to go on record as a supporter of maintaining the Alaska Massage Therapy license and board oversight.

Thank you,

Samantha Taylor, RN, LMT, BCTMB

From: [Edric Carrillo](#)
To: [Caitlyn Ellis](#)
Subject: FW: HB275
Date: Thursday, January 25, 2018 8:30:15 AM

From: Jenna O'Fontanella [mailto:jennalrmoo@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, January 24, 2018 9:34 PM
To: Rep. Sam Kito <Rep.Sam.Kito@akleg.gov>; Rep. Adam Wool <Rep.Adam.Wool@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB275

I am writing to support continued licensing for Massage Therapists, but have comments regarding the way that it is done in Alaska. I have been licensed in Washington State for over 20 years and never have I been made to feel like I am a criminal but with the on-going requirement for finger printing as part of my licensing in Alaska, that is the way it feels. No other profession is given this scrutiny. Massage therapist continue to fight to be recognized as a viable part of the medical establishment and there is on-going research to merit this fact but there are endless hoops that they have to go through when they are treated with suspension. Licensing does give more merit to our profession but it does seem to be more and more difficult to have insurance coverage since the licensing occurred and I do not understand why this is the case. The communication from the massage therapy board to its members has also been spotty and I would like to see an improvement on this level. I am pleased that the cost for licensing has been slightly reduced but believe that it could become more in line with other professionals and is still too high. Lastly I would like to thank Representative Wool for his insightful, intelligent and respectful comments during the hearing on Monday. Thank you for your time.
Jenna O'Fontanella

Jenna O'Fontanella, LMT, Nutrition Health Coach
Inner Mountain Wellness
innermountainwellness@gmail.com
www.innermountainwellness.com

From: [Edric Carrillo](#)
To: [Caitlyn Ellis](#)
Subject: FW: HB 275
Date: Thursday, January 25, 2018 8:31:03 AM

-----Original Message-----

From: Jennifer SHAW [<mailto:henniferlyn@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, January 24, 2018 9:39 PM
To: Rep. Sam Kito <Rep.Sam.Kito@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB 275

Dear Representative Kito:

I am writing to you as an Alaskan and as a health services researcher to add my voice to those reaching out to you about the continuation of the Massage Therapists Board. I believe this board serves an important function for the state and its citizens and that it should continue.

As a health services researcher, I believe in the value and importance of having professional boards to provide oversight of health services to ensure protection of the public by requiring certain training and transparency among health service providers about their qualifications.

As a state resident who has for years utilized and depended on massage therapy to manage a chronic condition, I take comfort and reassurance from knowing that the Massage Therapy Board exists and is looking out for my safety and well-being by establishing and upholding a minimum expectation for professional training and conduct of people representing themselves as massage therapists in the state.

I would not seek or trust medical care provided by a physician who did not meet the minimum standards of the state medical licensing board. Similarly, I want the assurance of knowing that my massage therapist has met standards established by a consensus of their professional peers and enforced by my state representatives in Juneau. Please work to pass HB 275 on behalf of all Alaskans.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Shaw
Eagle River
(907) 622-2396

From: [Edric Carrillo](#)
To: [Caitlyn Ellis](#)
Subject: FW: Support of HB 275
Date: Thursday, January 25, 2018 2:04:46 PM

From: Kelli Shew [mailto:kellishew@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 25, 2018 2:02 PM
To: Rep. Sam Kito <Rep.Sam.Kito@akleg.gov>
Subject: Re: Support of HB 275

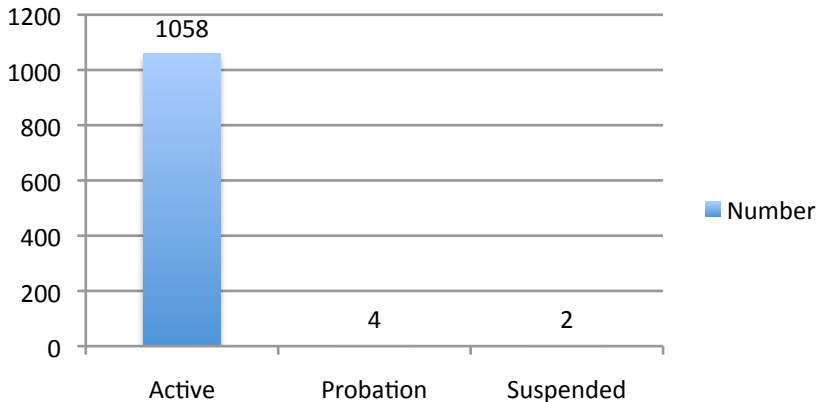
On Jan 25, 2018 1:58 PM, "Kelli Shew" <kellishew@gmail.com> wrote:

I am a licensed massage therapists in Alaska. I know that you have a busy committee schedule and rather than take up valuable committee time with personally testifying, I thought this letter would be a more respectful use of your valuable time. I believe the Massage Therapists Board has done a good job and that it should be continued. I believe that board oversight increases public confidence and helps insure public safety as well as helps keep high standards in our profession.

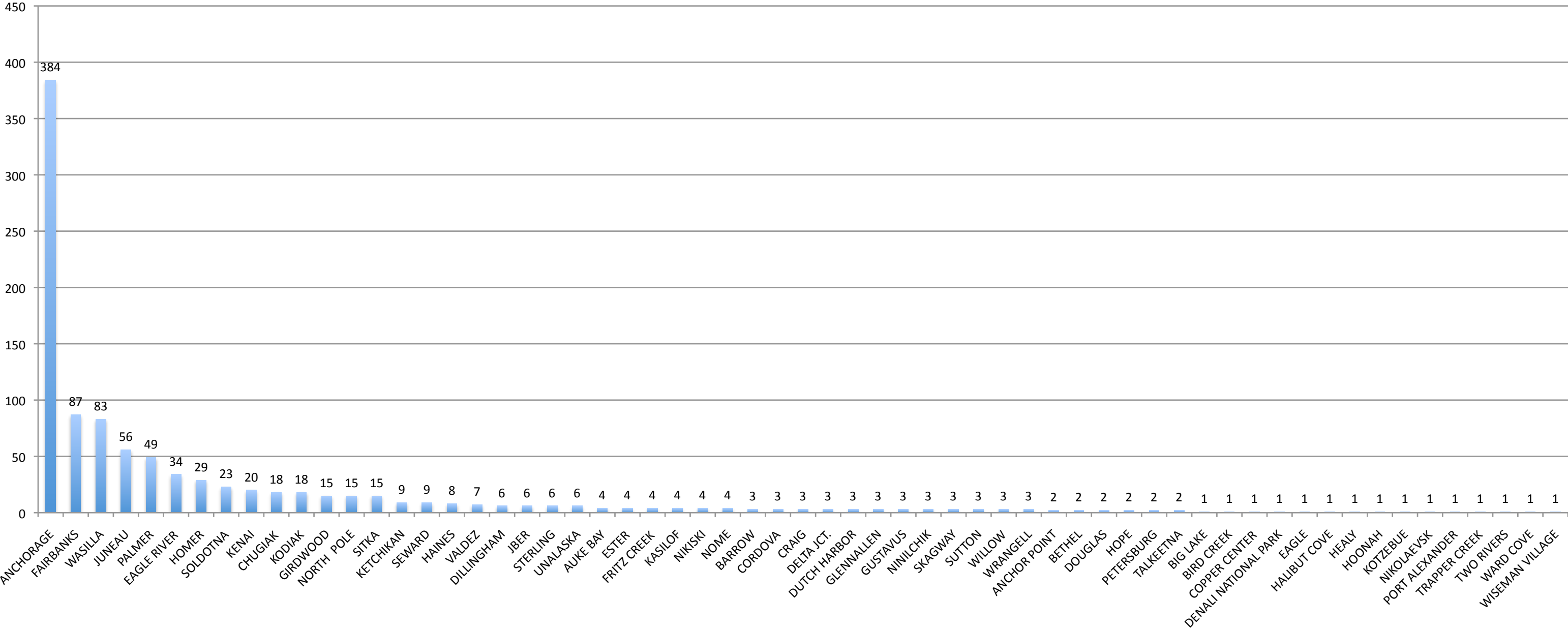
I strongly urge the passage of HB 275.

Thank you,
Kelli Shew LMT

Licenses Status as of 1-21-18



Number of Alaska Licensed Massage Therapists per City



Alaska Massage Therapy Licenses by State

