

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

2967 Nowell Ave

Juneau, AK 99801

907-957-6459

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
127 Behrends Ave
Juneau, AK 99801
907-957-1788

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

3251 Nowell Ave

Juneau AK 99801

Email: marshall.bob2@gmail.com

Crystal Koeneman

From: Mari <mkdysen@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
(907) 209-2371

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,
222 Seward Street, Ste 210
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

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