



Associated Bodywork & Massage Professionals

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February 7, 2014

To: Alaska State Legislators

From: Jean Robinson, Government Relations Director

Re: Massage Therapy Practice Act – Support of Draft Bill 12-9-13

I am pleased to provide this letter of support on behalf of Associated Bodywork & Massage Professionals (ABMP). ABMP is the largest national professional association for massage therapists with more than 82,000 members nationwide, including more than 250 members in Alaska. We provide professional liability insurance, business resources, professional publications, and legislative and regulatory advocacy for our members.

We have been engaged in the development of a draft bill in Alaska since 2007. Our priorities for the bill have included protecting current practitioners right to practice without having to obtain additional education or pass an exam, reasonable entry-level requirements for licensure that are and consistent with the rest of the country, and incorporating best practices from lessons learned from the forty-four states and three territories that currently regulate the profession.

I am delighted to report that we have come a long way. ABMP supports the Work Draft of the bill dated 12-9/13 (with a few very minor edits). We now comfortably ask for your support as well. Thank you for your attention to this matter. I would be happy to answer any questions and can be reached at jean@abmp.com or 800-458-2267 extension 645.