

**TLC Massage Therapy
Traci K Gilmour, LMT
Juneau, Alaska
AK License #102012
907 209 2371**



February 28, 2018

Representative Paul Seaton
State Capitol Room 505
Juneau AK, 99801

Representative Seaton,

I believe CSHB 110 is a positive step toward a safer massage industry in Alaska.

Reducing the frequency of fingerprinting helps with the burden of costs of licensing but maintains a requirement at every 3rd renewal. There are many LMT's with dual licensure, meaning they are licensed to practice in another state yet also choose to be licensed in Alaska. According to the FBI website, fingerprinting is the only way to trigger a National Background Check. An example of why background checks are necessary is a therapist in Juneau was arrested for Child Pornography prior to our licensing requirement. He was found guilty and served his time, however, that is a Barrier Crime and without a background check his crime would not be known to the Board or Professional Licensing Division. In this instance a State Background check would be sufficient, but not so for out of state licensees.

Reducing the Continuing Education requirement helps therapists find an online class. Currently it is difficult to find a class that offers more than 2 CEU's.

HB110 will result in a more highly educated licensee by increasing required education hours for new applicants. More information leads to greater ability by the therapist to personalize treatment and achieve positive long term results. Licensed Massage Therapists are experiencing increased credibility in the Medical community and are more widely accepted into jobs in medical settings. This credibility allows for collaboration with medical professionals to create a better course of treatment, increasing the possibility for long term healing and relief from pain.

Massage Establishment Licensing helps the consumer differentiate between a legitimate business and an illicit one. Our industry is a haven for prostitution and human trafficking. Increased expectations from the public of highly trained therapists leads to legitimacy of profession and increased knowledge about our services. We can reduce the stigma and availability of illicit business by networking with authorities such as FBI, State and local police, as well as national organizations directly related to reducing Human Trafficking in Alaska.

I support CSHB 110 as written and encourage its passage through committee.

Thank you for your support of the massage industry,

Traci K Gilmour, LMT