

Subject: Oppose EO 127 please

To: Alaska Legislators and Staff

I am writing in opposition to Executive Order 127.

I am a client of a professional Licensed Massage Therapist, and I rely on her services to ensure my good health and well-being. I have been receiving massage therapy for many years and feel it is a vital part of my ability to live without pain.

I have had a conversation with my therapist and one of her main concerns is that without a Board of her massage-educated and trained peers, the reality of proper oversight and accountability will diminish drastically once the Board is replaced with State of Alaska employees unfamiliar with the profession. Even while hard-working and diligent in their duties, the Division of Licensing employees are not equipped to provide proper accountability for the massage profession. Without a board there is no oversight by peers, legislators or anyone that is passionate about keeping fees down and stemming the tide of human trafficking that can occur in this profession.

Should EO127 pass I am concerned that my Licensed Massage Therapist will no longer have an oversight Board to rely on for ensuring public protection. She and others may have additional fees due to a need for more oversight from State of Alaska untrained staff in lieu of a volunteer board. Should licensing fees rise I am concerned that what I pay for massage will rise as well. With the current structure of a volunteer board, I can work with a massage therapist who keeps her rates affordable.

A lack of passion and care can come with removing an educated, passionate, oversight Board leading to mistakes and applicants being moved through without the due diligence of a Board to watch for and prevent against the hallmarks of fraud and malpractice.

Please move to disallow this Executive Order.

Thank you,

Leslie Scranton, Juneau, AK

To: Alaska Legislators and Staff

I am writing in opposition to Executive Order 127. I am a client of a Licensed Massage Therapist. I rely on their services to help ensure my good health. I have been receiving massages for many years and feel this is an important part of my self-care. It helps enable me to live a more comfortable, pain free life.

Should EO127 pass I am concerned that my Therapist may not have the Board to rely on for ensuring Public Protection. As one result, fees could rise due to a need for more oversight from staff in lieu of a volunteer board. Should licensing fees rise I imagine it only stands to reason that Massage Therapists in turn will have to raise their rates to compensate. I work with a Massage Therapist who keeps their rates affordable which allows me to keep on a regular schedule of care rather than a random massage a few times a year. Being retired and on a fixed income, this is of course appreciated.

My Therapist and I have spoken about this issue and another concern they have is that the Board will be replaced with additional paid employees thereby decreasing the Oversight and Accountability that comes with a Board of peers.

Lack of passion and care can come with removing a board and moving licensing duties to the Department leading to mistakes and applications being moved through without the due diligence of a Board to deny fraudulent applicants.

I am asking respectfully that you please move to disallow this Executive Order.

Thank you,

Bernadette J Lacey

I am writing in opposition of Executive Order 127.

I am a client of a Licensed Massage Therapist here in Juneau. I rely on her services to ensure my good health and wellbeing. I have been receiving massages for several years and feel it is a vital part of my ability to live without pain.

Should EO127 pass, I am concerned that my therapist may not have the Board to rely on for ensuring public protection and fees may rise due to a need for more oversight from staff in lieu of a volunteer board. Should Licensing Fees rise, I am concerned what I pay for massage will rise as well. I work with a massage therapist who keeps her rates affordable which allows me to focus on my wellbeing rather than a random massage a few times a year. In 2021, I had to have a lung removed due to a cancer diagnosis. In addition to the removal of the lung, this major surgery required the cutting of two sets of muscles and the removal of portions of two ribs. Ongoing massage therapy has been essential to my healing and the ability to deal with the resulting scar tissue built up from a nine-inch incision. As most insurances do not cover massage, I have to pay for my massages out of pocket. It is essential that rates do not rise in order for me to afford this much needed health care.

I have had a conversation with my therapist and her concerns are that the Board will be replaced with additional employees decreasing the oversight and accountability that comes with a board of peers.

Lack of passion and care can come with removing a board and moving licensing duties to the Department. This could lead to mistakes and applicants being moved through the system without the due diligence of a board to deny fraudulent applicants.

Please move to disallow this Executive Order.

Thank you.

Arlen W. Lanz

I am writing in opposition of Executive Order 127.

I am a client of a Licensed Massage Therapist. I rely on her services to ensure my good health and wellbeing. I have been receiving massage for many years and feel it is a vital part of my ability to live without pain.

Should EO127 pass I am concerned that my Therapist may not have the Board to rely on for ensuring Public Protection, fees may rise due to a need for more oversight from staff in lieu of a volunteer board. Should Licensing Fees rise I am concerned what I pay for massage will rise as well. I work with a massage therapist who keeps her rates affordable which allows me to focus on my wellbeing rather than a random massage a few times a year.

I have had a conversation with my therapist and her concerns are the Board will be replaced with additional employees decreasing the Oversight and Accountability that comes with a Board of peers.

Lack of passion and care can come with removing a board and moving licensing duties to the Department leading to mistakes and applicants being moved through without the due diligence of a Board to deny fraudulent applicants.

Please move to disallow this Executive Order.

Thank you

Crystal Hegel

Honorable Legislators and Staff,

I am writing in opposition of Executive Order 127. I am a client of a Licensed Massage Therapist whom I rely on for my health.

Should EO127 pass I am concerned that my Therapist may not have the stakeholder-staffed Board to rely on for the best guidance and Public Protections. Therapist fees may have to rise due to a need for more oversight from appointed staff. Further, an appointed Board would likely be less able to provide the professional Oversight and Accountability that comes with a Board of peers.

Please move to disallow this Executive Order.

Thank you,

Robert Marshall