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To: Alaska Legislators and Staff

I am writing in opposition of Executive Order 127.

I am a client and the sister 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 licensed 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.

Why would you allow this, and it would cost the State of Alaska money & put this responsibility on to the staff of the Department of Commerce & Economic Development. These employees are not educated in massage therapy. How could you possibly put a program in-place within that department that doesn't have the knowledge to evaluate licensees.

If a person has not been through the proper training and continuing education, how can they be trusted with our physical bodies. There is potential they could hurt someone. The Board of Massage Therapists are the people that are qualified to vet the people endeavoring to have a career in this field.

I have had a conversation with my therapist and her concern is 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

*Teri Maxwell*