

Crystal Koeneman

From: Ed Toal <edtoal@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 17, 2018 10:58 PM
To: Rep. Sam Kito
Subject: HB275

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Representative Kito,

I am writing to express my opposition to HB275. I hope there will be an opportunity for public comment.

While I support the continuation of the massage therapy license at the state level, I have disturbing information about the board and believe it is in the public interest to allow it to sunset. The licensing function would be better administered by the Department thus avoiding much drama and legal liability.

I will spare you the details of why I believe the board is acting in bad faith unless you ask. I just want to make you aware that there is a growing movement among the massage therapy community to oppose passage of this bill in its present form. If public comment is allowed I will participate from the LIO in Anchorage.

Thank you,

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Crystal Koeneman

From: Yael Hickok <wpmalaska@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 16, 2018 9:58 AM
To: Rep. Sam Kito
Subject: HB 275 concerns

Good Morning Mr. Kito,

I have been a massage therapist in Alaska for about 20 years. I am currently licensed under the new state requirements. I was part of the AMTA board that originally pushed for state licensing. I was reluctant to add licensing requirements because I dislike excessive government involvement. However, I recognized that there could be a direct benefit to massage therapists in being able to more easily bill insurance, and in public protection from unlawful sex trafficking and prostitution done in the name of massage.

My position has now shifted, and I would prefer to **continue licensing, but without a massage board.**

- I have seen **no benefit** from the state massage board. Massage 'parlors' continue to thrive.
- Their review of applications is **arbitrary and subject to personal biases.**
- They **take way too long** in reviewing and approving licenses. My information was submitted in June 2016 and I did not receive my license until December 2016.
- The **cost of our license is outrageously high.** \$610 for the initial license and then \$410 every two years. In contrast, physical and occupational therapists have similar numbers of state licensees to massage therapists and pay \$390 for their initial license and \$240 for renewal.

Lastly, I know that more massage therapists in the state are able to bill insurance because of state licensing; but they **could continue to do so without the board** being involved, delaying our licenses, and adding excessively to our licensing costs.

I would encourage you to promote state massage therapy licensing but without the professional board. Another profession that follow this route in Alaska is acupuncture.

Please reply with your thoughts on this issue. I greatly appreciate your time.

Thank you,

Yael Hickok

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Workplace Massage

Pili Goddard-Vaughan

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January 19, 2018

Dear House Labor & Commerce Chair, Vice Chair, Members and Alternates,

I am writing as a professional bodyworker (massage and myofascial therapist) in Anchorage for the past 20 years. I attended the UAA program for massage therapy and graduated back in 1999. I love my occupation. I feel honored to serve my clients, help them with their pain, offer them an alternative to pain medication, and provide a safe and healthy stress reduction option. I have worked in athletic spas, chiropractic clinics and now have a private practice.

I am writing today to ask that HB 275 not be extended. In the few years the Massage Board has existed, it has, in my opinion, not bettered my profession or my situation personally. In fact, the exorbitant cost has taken money that I would have put towards continuing education, which, I believe, is the most effective way to raise the standards of our profession.

The licensing of massage therapist by the municipality was already running background checks and fingerprints on massage therapists. The association that I get insurance coverage through, requires continuing education as well.

In the few years the Board has existed, it has caused me time and money. I was told with a Board, we would be eligible to bill insurance for services. We are still tied to doctors' and chiropractors' referrals, and I do not believe even the chiropractors' board (or PTs') pay the high fees that we do.

I am for licensing of massage therapists, I am for building a better profession and having ethical standards to adhere to. I have not seen how the Board of Massage Therapists has raised either of these.

Please know that I do not back this Board, and feel HB 275 should not be extended.

Thank you,

Pili Goddard-Vaughan LMT, CAMT II

From: [Edric Carrillo](#)
To: [Caitlyn Ellis](#)
Subject: FW: AK HB 275 Please do not support renewal of the board of massage therapists.
Date: Monday, January 22, 2018 10:59:16 AM

From: Michelle Niland [mailto:michelleniland@yahoo.com]

Sent: Monday, January 22, 2018 10:39 AM

To: Rep. Colleen Sullivan-Leonard <Rep.Colleen.Sullivan-Leonard@akleg.gov>; Rep. Sam Kito <Rep.Sam.Kito@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mike Chenault <Rep.Mike.Chenault@akleg.gov>

Subject: AK HB 275 Please do not support renewal of the board of massage therapists.

I have been practicing massage therapy in the the state of Alaska since 1999. My experience with licensing for MTs has been that while licensing serves good purposes, the board is unnecessary overhead for the state. The state licensing examiner listens to therapist concerns with a sincere interest in improving the process while the board simple creates delays in the licensing process and drives up costs. All that could be accomplished for the field can be accomplished in a more streamlined manner by dissolving the board and letting the state lisenisng examiner process licenses. Eliminating the board would save the state money.

I am also a member of the massage therapist Facebook page. I hear from my peers across the state daily on this matter. The overwhelming opinion of therapists from around the state seems to be that keeping licensing while dissolving the board would streamline the process and lose us nothing.

Thank you in advance for considering my opinion.

Michelle Latha
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