



amta
american **massage therapy** association

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To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of the American Massage Therapy Association (AMTA), we want to express our support for licensure of the massage therapy profession in the State of Alaska. AMTA is a professional membership association representing more than 56,000 massage therapists nationally, including more than 300 massage therapists in Alaska. Our association has represented the massage therapy profession since 1943.

AMTA works for fair, consistent and effective licensing both to ensure the right to practice of massage therapists and to protect the public. AMTA believes in balanced regulation that provides for minimal standards of practice to ensure professionalism and provide public confidence in massage therapy.

Currently, 43 states and the District of Columbia provide for the regulation of massage therapy and most provide a Practice Act that requires licensure to practice. With growing number of states turning to licensure, we see that it works for the profession and public.

For more information on the reasons to support licensure of the massage therapy profession, please see the attached information sheet.

Massage therapy licensing embodies the principles and values AMTA upholds, and it includes content and practice standards we believe must be part of massage licensing in all states. Only by enacting this type of law, and by requiring licensure for massage therapists, can we ensure practitioners have met minimum competency standards, established through formal education, training and examination requirements.

Thank you for your time. If we can provide any additional information or be of any assistance, please feel free to contact us.

Respectfully,

Chris A. Studebaker
Director, Government & Industry Relations