

House Bill 328, Senate Bill 188
Sponsor Statement

“An Act establishing a Board of Massage Therapists; relating to the licensing of massage therapists; and providing for an effective date.”

House Bill 328 seeks to provide industry and educational standards to promote a code of ethics, public safety, self-regulation, accountability, business development, grievance process and therapy access.

Currently Alaska is one of six states not regulating the massage therapy profession. A professional code of ethics develops a scope of practice including education, contraindications, body system, potential results, and above all safety.

Licensing endorses small business development by allowing a therapist to become a preferred provider and bill insurance directly versus going through chiropractors, physical therapists and physicians.

Creating a standard of practice allows consumers to educate themselves to the standard of care they should expect and helps them find the most appropriate therapy style for their individual care.

This bill encourages greater professional opportunities for therapists. With the massage therapy profession growing at an average rate of 120 therapists each year, now is the time to create clear industry standards for the health and safety of Alaskans.

84% of surveyed massage therapists support state licensure. I support their efforts and I ask you to please join me in support of this vital fundamental legislation.

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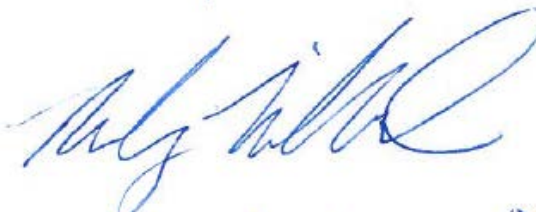
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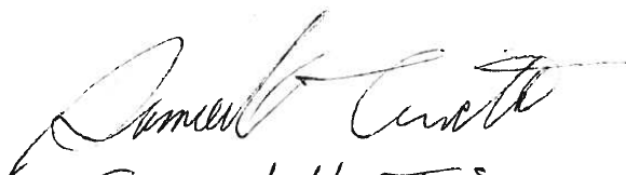



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