

**From:** [House Finance](#)  
**To:** [Helen Phillips](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Public comment for HB 275  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 06, 2018 12:08:29 PM

---

One more letter of support. I promise to get my PDFs fixed

---

**From:** Patricia Nickell-Zimmerman  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 06, 2018 9:48 AM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Cc:** Elizabeth Diament <Elizabeth.Diament@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Public comment for HB 275

Jane,

This constituent has asked for her letter to be entered as public testimony supporting this bill.

Sincerely,  
Patricia

Patricia Nickell-Zimmerman  
Staff for Representative Paul Seaton  
120 4<sup>th</sup> St. State Capitol Room 505  
Juneau, AK 99801  
Phones: 907-465-2689 800-665-2689

**From:** Scott and Traci [<mailto:stgilmour@gci.net>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 06, 2018 7:23 AM  
**To:** Rep. Paul Seaton <[Rep.Paul.Seaton@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Paul.Seaton@akleg.gov)>  
**Subject:** Support for HB275

February 6, 2018

Representative Seaton,

My name is Traci Gilmour and I support HB275, Extending the Sunset of Board of Massage Therapists to 2022.

I am a Licensed Massage Therapist in Alaska. I have been practicing massage therapy for 24 years in Juneau. I sit on the Alaska State Board of Massage but for the purpose of this letter of support I write you as a Licensee.

Alaska's economy has been positively impacted in a time where jobs are declining due to decreased oil dollars and cuts in state employment. A new massage school was created in 2017, graduates from massage schools in Alaska have received licenses and opened their own business or joined massage establishments and doctors. Therapists from other states have applied for license in Alaska. Sole Proprietors are successfully billing insurance. Support staff have been hired, billing specialists are

needed, we are taking continuing education and bringing instructors to Alaska from outside for classes. The benefit to the economy of Alaska reaches the hotel and airline industry, restaurants and stores. Increased knowledge about our industry leads to more clients on our tables.

Oversight by a board and licensure of massage therapists leads to increased access to prescribed medical care. Licensees provide medical massage at an often lower cost to consumers.

A review of meeting minutes shows this board has accomplished much of what has been required and continues its good work while keeping in mind efficiency and cost reduction over the three year period it has been holding public meetings. The board reaches out to other states licensing massage therapists and agencies for information that encourages public safety, effective communication and delivery of the best possible product for the consumer by licensees in Alaska.

The board started its journey receiving training from the Division and moved into creating regulations as required by statute. During the first year of meetings approval of applications was a primary focus as well as understanding its relationship with various entities of the state and federal governments. Public Comment was heard, Investigations officers, pertinent state agencies were represented and FBI explained their roles. Standards of Practice were adopted and apprenticeship requirements were brought to the drawing board. One of the board's focused discussions has been adoption of Disciplinary fines and Barrier Crimes. Board members responded in favor of licensee feedback to decrease initial application and renewal fees. Support has been given to changes in statute seeking to reduce the burden of fingerprinting, HB145 and strengthen education requirements, HB110.

I believe the board has met its burden of proof and should be granted an Extension of Sunset to 2022. I urge you to support HB275 and allow this young board to grow, support protection of the consumer and encourage growth in our industry,

Thank you for your time,

Traci K Gilmour, LMT  
TLC Massage Therapy  
AK License #102012  
(907) 209-2371