

2843

Cooper, Kathy

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**From:** Totino, Michaele  
**Sent:** Monday, November 15, 2010 8:39 AM  
**To:** IRRC  
**Subject:** FW: Irrc #2843

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**From:** Terry Tosh [mailto:terrytosh@live.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 12, 2010 5:16 PM  
**To:** Totino, Michaele  
**Cc:** ra-massagetherapy@state.pa.us  
**Subject:** Irrc #2843

Dear Michaele,

I would like to state that it is necessary to vote yes to the final proposal for Massage Licensing, however, I would also like to express my concern about the way the regulation is written. For the protection of the Massage Therapy Profession, it is imperative that the Massage Therapy Board defines the scope of practice.

We ask that you not confuse the practice of Massage Therapy with the practice of Physical Therapy. Do we treat some of the same conditions? Absolutely. Do Massage Therapists use the same techniques as Physical Therapists to treat those conditions? Absolutely not. Are a few techniques similar? Yes, as well as in other professions. An example, would be chiropractors and osteopaths both manipulate the spine. Podiatrists and surgeons both operate on the feet. Some professions may use the same techniques, but the professions themselves are very different from each other.

There are many massage therapists who have been in practice over 25 years. Over the years, many physicians and chiropractors have referred patients to massage therapists. These massage therapists have safely and effectively used advanced massage therapy techniques to work with chronic pain, achieving excellent results. Many Massage Therapy practices could be in jeopardy for infractions if the Board does not define the scope of practice. The regulations as they stand, could ultimately result in a restraint of trade.

We absolutely do need to have a massage therapy law in place, therefore, as I stated before, please vote yes to the final regulation. It is our hope that in the near future, the Massage Board will work toward realistic goals for the profession.

Sincerely,

Terry Ann Tosh  
Certified Orthopedic Massage Therapist  
Pennsylvania Institute of Massage Therapy