

3203

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Independent Regulatory  
Review Commission

**From:** Info  
**To:** ST. Regulatory Counsel  
**Subject:** 16A-724 (IRRC #3203) Increase In Massage Therapy License Fee  
**Date:** Monday, July 2, 2018 6:01:14 PM

Ms Wolfgang,

I have been a massage therapist in PA for 17 years and have been supportive of licensure and regulation. When the board proposes to more than double the renewal fee I have to ask why and how will those funds be used.

I have always been a business owner and the fee is not a hardship for me personally but that is not the case for many other therapists. Some therapists who were part-time left the field when we became licensed. There will be a second wave including some who are on the verge of retiring should the increase become law. Highly experienced therapists will leave the field sooner. For new therapists the increase of \$35 could be a deterrent. I was board certified to teach a class but the renewal fee each licensing period made me decide to no longer teach that course to massage therapists. Now it may become even higher. The fee to renew a license is only one of many fees a therapist must pay to stay licensed including 24 CEU's, CPR and liability insurance. That is generally close to \$1000 every two years.

Additionally, I rely on part-time independent contractors to run my spa. Should they decide not to renew their licences I will turn away clients to due lack of staffing which will impact my business and income.

I have been on the fence about when not to renew my license. I will be watching closely to see how this evolves. On several social media pages today, therapists have expressed outrage over the intended increase. I'm sure you will be hearing from them soon.

Ours is a profession that is often considered Healthcare when politically convenient but not when it comes to third party reimbursements or health plan benefits. I believe it is too much and will alienate and antagonize the therapists in general. Is there not a middle ground?

I appreciate the opportunity to share my views.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Carla Saylor, LMT

Owner, Mandarin Rose

Sent from my T-Mobile 4G LTE Device