

3203



From: Kari Barnes
To: ST. Regulatory Counsel
Subject: Massage license price increase
Date: Monday, July 2, 2018 8:22:39 PM

Regarding Regulation #16A-724 (IRRC #3203)

I am writing today to explain how much of a hardship the proposed license fees will affect not only me, but the entire profession.

We are already over burdened by the unlicensed massage therapists charging half what we charge and taking clients because they have little to do no overhead. The Asian exclusion and the therapists working illegally are making it extremely hard to make a profit and keep up our legal fees.

The education is already way overpriced, I do support us taking hours each year, and continuing to learn, but it's costing an extra \$500-\$1500 per therapist for these hours.

The unnecessary and redundant classes make up lose money, the child abuse class took me 6 hours last renewal and the ethics 6 hours. Not working those 12 hours is costly.

I wonder if you take the people who have multiple licenses into account when raising these prices? I have several therapists working with me with 2-3 licenses. We can not afford these fees and if they hike, we will go the way of Ohio, where schools are shutting down and therapists are leaving the profession in droves because of the fees and hoops for licensed professionals to overcome.

Please reconsider what an enormous financial burden you are thinking of inflicting on a profession that is barely making ends meet as it is. We aren't Doctors or lawyers that make exorbitant fees.

Thank you for your time and understanding.

Sincerely,
Kari Barnes-Frank, LMT MSG000515