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From: Kate Cullen
To: ST. Regulatory Counsel
Subject: Proposed rate increase
Date: Thursday, July 5, 2018 1:01:08 PM

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Independent Regulatory
Review Commission

Good afternoon,

It has been brought to my attention that there is a proposed rate increase regarding the licensure/renewal for massage therapists in Pennsylvania. I want to tell my particular story, and hope that my situation, as well as others are taken into account. At 35 years old, I was a single mother, with no high school diploma, and no marketable skills to speak of, settling on whatever job I could get, and scraping by. Then I discovered my passion...helping others with my hands. I thought long and hard about how I would make school work, and still be able to pay the rent, bills, and keep food on the table. Well, it did NOT seem possible, but I jumped. It was the second chance I had been waiting for my whole life. I got my GED, and enrolled. Somehow, I made it through the program. Not only did I make it through, I finished with a 4.0, and a daughter who could be proud of her mother. And I've never been happier with work. That being said, it's still difficult financially, being new to the industry. Between the charges for continuing education, insurance, and supplies, it is quite difficult to pay. I am a law abiding, upstanding therapist, and my fear is that not only will a rate increase squeeze some of us out of the industry, but will also cause more illegal practices. One of the more frightening thoughts, is that some people may just practice without going through the proper channels, putting the general public at risk. Please consider my plea...we have gone through the proper channels, and are doing great things for people, and this may be a tipping point for a lot of therapists, and they may not be able to practice if the rate increase goes through. Thank you so much for your time.

Kindest regards,

Kate Cullen, LMT