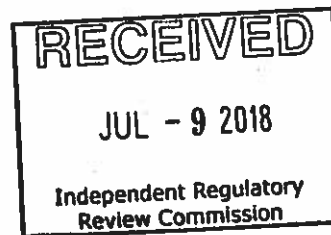


3203

From: Traci Geist
To: ST. Regulatory Counsel
Subject: Proposed fee increase
Date: Monday, July 2, 2018 4:33:12 PM



Greetings:

I was recently informed that there is a proposal on the table to increase the fees for licensing required for massage therapy. As a self-employed massage therapist, with no employees, this increase in fees will constitute a hardship financially for myself and others. I do this as my profession and sole source of income. In addition to the substantial continuing credits costs, a fee increase seems particularly difficult to justify. I feel there must be other sources of revenue or ways to cut costs and reduce the deficit and not punish massage therapists who try to comply with the regulations. There are many practicing therapists who cut costs and do not comply to start with, and I feel an increase in fees will add to this number. I sincerely hope that the licensing board reconsiders this proposal and finds another way to remedy the problem. I find it difficult to imagine how the deficit got this large in such a relatively short period of time that licensing existed. I feel very strongly that increasing fees feels like a penalty to those of us who try to comply with licensing requirements, and is not the appropriate place to get more money.

Sincerely, Traci Geist, LMT