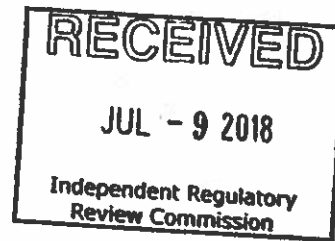


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**From:** Trella Dubetz  
**To:** ST. Regulatory Counsel  
**Subject:** Regulation #16A-724: Fees  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 3, 2018 9:56:48 AM

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Dear Ms. Wolfgang,

As a licensed massaged therapist that has been practicing since 2001, I'm writing to voice my opinion about the proposed increase in our license renewal fee from \$75 to \$200.

Whether I or my colleagues are self-employed or working for a spa, salon, chiropractor, or other medical or holistic clinic, our income is not guaranteed. It is solely discretionary, and does not include any benefits such as health insurance, professional or liability insurance, or paid time off for sick, personal, or vacation days. For those that work for an employer, their income is then diminished because of the financial cut that the employer takes, which can be up to 65% of the hourly rate. For those of us that are self-employed, although we receive our full hourly rate, that fee has to cover not only our time working with clients but also rent, laundry, health insurance, liability insurance, supplies, marketing and advertising, and more.

The Bureau of Labor and Statistics reports the median annual wage for massage therapists was \$39,860 in 2016. The best-paid 10 percent in the profession made \$74,870, while the lowest-paid 10 percent made \$19,720. This is quite a range, and I know from massage therapist colleagues in the field here in PA, that they must hold multiple jobs to make ends meet.

We in the healing arts field pursue this work to help our communities, to help humanity, and to lessen the suffering of others. We commit to the work not because it is a hugely lucrative professional field, but because it is satisfying to help others day in and day out.

With this said, I ask that you please reconsider the renewal fee increase for massage therapists, as I know that it will truly be a hardship for many of us to pay and continue the work that we and our clients appreciate.

Kindly,  
*Rev. Trella Dubetz, BFA, LMT*

Supporting peoples' rebirth and evolution through inner connection, healing, and self-recognition,  
so that they may live more freely, initialize greater love and connection,  
and restore our world.