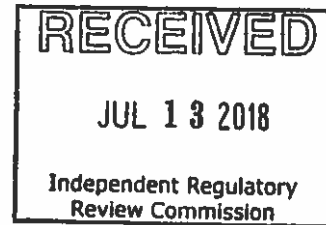


#3203

July 7, 2018

Jacqueline A. Wolfgang, Assistant Counsel
Department of State
P.O. Box 69523
Harrisburg, PA 17106-9523



Dear Miss Jacqueline Wolfgang,

I am writing today about the proposed fee increase, regulation #16A-724 (IRRC #3203), that will affect all Massage Therapists across the state of Pennsylvania.

First, I want to tell you a little about myself.

I have been a massage therapist for 8 years and ABSOLUTELY love what I do!
I love hearing how much I help someone.

Sometimes people come see me just to release from everyday stresses, and not necessarily to get actual bodywork done. Sometimes it's more mental for them, like I'm their personal confidant.

I love being there for my clients. Being able to manipulate the muscles to give relief is an amazing feeling! I try hard to expand my knowledge and learn new techniques to help them with their needs, which means I have to take classes and learn new interesting things! But classes cost money. A lot of money. They aren't cheap whatsoever, especially the very in depth courses.

I work close to 50 hours a week and two jobs!
The money I make pays for everyday life stuff; including but not limited to: housing, having a family, raising children, transportation, schooling, student loans, etc.
Then massage specific supplies (also including but not limited to), lotions/creams/oils, sheets, laundry, CE classes, required certifications, work clothing, etc.

I don't get insurance (of any kind), workers comp or vacation time.
I only get paid if I do a massage, as it is with most therapists. I don't get paid holidays and mostly work 6 days a week just to make what I have.

I'm explaining this because there's no way I can afford \$200 to renew my license. It may not seem like a lot but when you factor in just the massage specific renewal requirements, it adds up.

I have read the proposal and understand the board is in a deficit.

What are the expenditures that cost so much?

Why punish us massage therapists?

July 7, 2018

I can understand a \$5-\$10 increase. That seems fair. But a \$125 increase? That's extreme. By any standards. Instead contemplate reducing the CE hours needed per license renewal period. Instead of 24 hours needed make it 12 hours needed. The money saved from CE courses can be used to renew our license.

Please reconsider this proposal and think of the impact on therapists that make so little or those that are trying to accomplish their own start-ups.

It's a hard world out there. But you can help make it a little easier, at least on Licensed Massage Therapists, by not letting the renewal be increased to \$200.

Thank you so much for taking the time to read my letter.

Wishing you the best of the day,

-Jennae L. Dungan
Licensed Massage Therapist
MSG001578

