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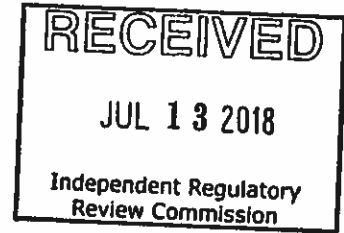
-----Original Message-----

From: katiebryyy7@gmail.com [mailto:katiebryyy7@gmail.com]

Sent: Wednesday, July 11, 2018 5:09 PM

To: ST, MASSAGE THERAPY <RA-MASSAGETHERAPY@pa.gov>

Subject: Appeal to Raise Renewal Fees



Hello,

I have been a massage therapist for four years and am writing to strongly urge you to reconsider raising the biannual renewal fee from \$75 to \$200.

My first argument being that licensed therapists have to pay anywhere from \$50-\$1500 every two years in order to ensure that all of their CEU's are met. The prices obviously vary on the classes and what we spend is up to our discretion as some of us may want to learn more expensive skills than others. However, we should not be 'punished' for wanting to learn by also increasing the renewal fee.

We paid thousands of dollars to go to school, we are required to pay for our CEU's and we have to pay to renew our licenses. I don't think that there is anything wrong with that, but I do think that raising the renewal fee 125% is absurd. You will lose massage therapists for this decision. We don't all make the kind of money you're obviously assuming that we do. Some of us are on my part time, or self employed with an inconsistent rate of clients.

I do understand there is a need to raise the renewal fee with inflation and the need for funding. But you cannot tell me that raising the fee 125% is absolutely necessary. To me, that sounds greedy and like a ploy to take advantage of someone's job title. If you must raise the fee, consider raising it to \$100. Or raise it slowly over the course of a few years. People who are used to and prepared to pay \$75 may be unable to pay the \$200. This will cause a large influx of massage therapists not renewing. You will kill the trade.

I beg you from the bottom of my heart to reconsider your decisions. So many families are at stake.

Thank you,

Katherine Ruhl
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Sent from my iPhone