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From: Leslie
To: ST_RegulatoryCounsel
Subject: Massage Licensing
Date: Sunday, July 8, 2018 1:12:00 PM

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in opposition to the proposed increase in the Massage Licensing fees. In an industry that, until 8 years ago, had little to no regulation. The cost of the pre-licensing required education programs now exceed \$15,000 which have many carrying education loans. The majority of LMT's are Independent Contractors, we have no paid time off, no health benefits or benefits at all, are expected to pay for Continuing Education classes that run around \$500-\$1500 for the in classroom hours in addition to the CPR, Child Abuse and Ethics etc. Personally, I've already spent \$800 for my, in class room CEU'S this renewal and have yet to do the rest. This means, when all is said and done I'll have spent over \$1300 to maintain my PA license. The 166% increase quite frankly, seems extreme and borders on government overreach. With the rapid increase of Massage Membership businesses taking over the industry the rate of pay for Massage Therapists has plummeted to an average of \$16 a massage in these franchises. To be expected to pay \$1300 every 2 years to keep a job that pays an average of \$16 a massage is cost prohibitive and unnecessary.

Leslie Roberts-Welpé

