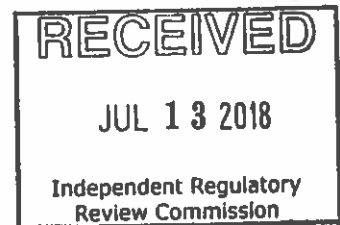


# 3203

**From:** Vanessa Lauren [mailto:vanessak27@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 11, 2018 1:01 PM  
**To:** ST, MASSAGE THERAPY <RA-MASSAGETHERAPY@pa.gov>  
**Subject:** License Fee Increases



To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Vanessa Baker, I'm a licensed massage therapist in Pennsylvania. I am writing out of concern regarding the increase in fees to our massage licenses.

I am not a business owner nor could I personally afford it if I tried. I also don't have the credit to apply for a decent loan if I tried because I've always been classified as lower income. I also don't make enough to pay back my student loans. I don't mean to be negative, that's just the honest truth.

I do have attractive goals in mind for rebuilding my skill level like craniosacral therapy, MLD certification, advanced certification in oncology massage and sound bowl therapy but all of this continuing education costs and often exceeds my average wages which don't amount to much as I work between a salon and a chiropractor, both wonderful employers where I'm grateful for the experience and who I'd like to keep working for.

But the struggle is finding the money in keeping my skills and insurance up to date aside from general living expenses. When I heard about the fee increase to our licenses, my heart sank. I love massage therapy and being able to hear how good it makes my regular clients feel. My wages are abysmal, but the stories are priceless and make up for it. From my one regular client with scoliosis that was able to travel back to her homeland of Puerto Rico because traveling long distances would bring her great pain and nothing but massage seemed to work, to a regular couple who feels better, to a gentleman who works multiple jobs and is a landlord and uses massage therapy for maintenance and overall wellness - we are a necessary part of overall health and well-being. I also rely on regular massage therapy for my physical and mental well-being. However, my fear is many will leave the industry or begin practicing illegally because our wages can't keep up with our ever increasing cost of doing business.

Thank you for your time in hearing and addressing my concerns.

Sincerely,

Vanessa L. Baker, LMT

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*You must start with a positive attitude or you will surely end without one."*