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**From:** Claudia Ager  
**To:** ST, Regulatory Counsel  
**Subject:** Proposed fee Increases by Massage Therapy Board  
**Date:** Monday, July 23, 2018 10:27:36 PM

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I am very disappointed in the proposed fee increases by the Massage Board. Both the increase of the biennial fee and the continuing ed approval fee will cause our costs to increase. I have been licensed by the PA Board of Nursing for 40yrs. First as an LPN for 2 and an RN for 38. Our fees have gradually increased over these years, just reaching \$75 around 2011. I was a sole proprietor of a massage therapy practice from 1998 to the end of 2017 in Indiana, PA. During that time I depended on my client's expendable income, was able to bill auto insurance and worker's compensation when appropriate at the time of treatment. In 2011, I was grandfathered into licensure by the Massage Therapy board. As decided by the board, Massage Therapists were no longer able to be covered by any insurance. This eliminated a vital potential for income. I was also required to have 24hrs of continuing ed every 2 yrs. These hours include 16 hrs of hands on education. Since that time, continuing education programs that were applicable to my practice and affordable were slow to become available on the western side of our state. I have taken these classes either on the eastern side of the state or in another state, only further increasing the cost to my budget and especially now when I was hoping to practice massage part time. Along with malpractice insurance and the other potential increases I may be unable to practice a profession that I love, that was another means of providing comfort and pain relief to my clients. I do not understand why our board is in such debt! Obviously from it's inception! How can this problem not jeopardize the future of Massage Therapy as a profession in our state?

