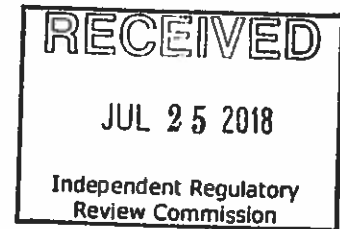


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**From:** Jan Seybold  
**To:** ST. Regulatory Counsel  
**Subject:** Hello/proposed legislative license fees increase feedback  
**Date:** Thursday, July 19, 2018 4:51:16 PM



Dear Ms. Wolfgang:

I am writing to voice my opposition/opinion regarding the recent announcement to increase license/administrative fees for massage licensure in the state of Pennsylvania.

First of all, I find it a privilege to be licensed in PA and to be able practice what I love doing, helping others. With that being said, I have some feedback regarding the proposed increases and requirements.

I've been a practicing licensed massage therapist in Pennsylvania since January 2010. I am also licensed in the state of Massachusetts, where the fee for licensure is \$150 a year. By comparison, in Massachusetts, there is no continuing education, child abuse, or ethics requirements. Massachusetts did have a pretty extensive initial requirement for licensure. Therapists there only voluntarily take courses which interest them, and to help them develop professionally within in their own practice, and every therapist I knew there did.

What I am hearing from other therapists is that this fee increase is more than double -and many of us cannot afford the increase. The massage therapy profession is not a lucrative one, with most of us earning somewhere between \$15,000 and \$40,000 a year, unlike doctors and nurses. The proposed increase in licensure as well as the additional cost of continuing education may make it unaffordable for some therapists to continue to be licensed.

In addition, we thought that licensure would eliminate all the non-regulated Asian bodywork places, but no. They are alive and well they do not have to take continuing education requirements. They do not have to pay for licenses. Certainly some of the revenue that you need could be gained by having them pay a flat yearly fee just to be an operation. It is very frustrating and maddening quite frankly to have to jump through all these costly hoops, which I don't mind doing if there were some benefit to it. Meanwhile the other non licensed "bodywork" places are getting off free.

I have to bring up another point while I am writing. I was told by my massage liability insurance carrier and professional membership organization that Pennsylvania is the ONLY state that is requiring a child abuse class. I know that other professionals such as chiropractors and registered nurses have to take this child abuse class but frankly in the 10 years that I have been doing massage I have only worked on ONE child & the chance of me seeing another child in my practice in my work is slim. Also, I have to object to the ethics class being required every two years. We already had to take ethics to graduate from massage school. The same subject matter is being given again and again. This is redundant and an insult to our intelligence. Anyone with any type of moral background & common sense would know what not to do. We didn't spend over \$10,000 to throw it down the tubes to violate a commonsense ethical standard. Plus, do we really need a class to tell us what not to do? I am 58 years old and it's a pretty sad state of affairs if I have to take an ethics class every two years in order to know what is right from wrong.

Lastly, why did I find out about this proposed increase through my professional liability and membership organization, ABMP, and not you? AMTA certainly didn't announce it either. I feel you should've notified licensees.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Janice Ann Seybold, LMT  
MESSAGE # 001554