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**From:** Linda Hemmes  
**To:** ST. Regulatory Counsel  
**Subject:** Fee Increase  
**Date:** Sunday, July 22, 2018 10:33:49 AM

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To Whom It May Concern ~

I have read the information regarding your proposed fee increase and am, frankly, appalled.

For the fees levied, I see absolutely NO benefit in the licensing program what so ever. In fact, I find it to be punitive. At the time licensing was established in 2012, I owned a Day Spa. Of the 12 massage therapists that I employed in 2012, 6 completely quit massage therapy. The resulting loss of business, caused me to sell the practice. The cost of massage therapy education as related to the potential income and the relatively short career life of the average massage therapist, in addition to the extremely high costs of continuing education, and insurances, make an increase in fees a horrible added expense that will drive more massage therapists from the profession. I have been doing massages for over 28 years and find that the increasing expenses cause me to continually re-evaluate staying in the profession. Frankly, from my perspective, GOVERNMENT needs to look at cost containment and better financial management to keep costs low. I see ZERO benefit to having all these regulations in place - it is a punishment that has no benefit to the therapist.

I sincerely hope that you reevaluate this ridiculous fee increase and recognize the burden you are unnecessarily thrusting on massage therapists.

Sincerely,

Linda B. Hemmes, CMT, LMT

