

3203

From: Peter Santos
To: ST_RegulatoryCounsel
Subject: Comment on Proposed Massage Therapy Regulations
Date: Sunday, July 22, 2018 9:08:37 AM

To the Pennsylvania Board of Massage Therapy,

I understand that one of the proposed regulations is to increase the biennial renewal fee for massage therapists from \$75 to \$200. As a part-time massage therapist, I can tell you that I will NOT be renewing my license if this regulation goes through. I know this would negatively impact my regular clients, some of whom I've seen regularly for the 5 years I've been doing this work.

Although I realize a \$200 biennial fee can be easily rationalized as just \$100/year or less than \$10/month, it adds to the growing list of expenses for the license and continuing education for a profession that, despite its obvious benefits (not to mention cost/benefit ratio), is increasingly being targeted by insurance companies for removal. In fact, being in State College, my bookings (and corresponding income) have been greatly reduced this year due to Penn State recently changing their insurance company to one that no longer recognizes massage therapy in their covered services.

As a former health policy analyst for the State of Vermont and former financial analyst who came to be a massage therapist later in age than most (although with more life experience), I can't help but wonder how much the Board's costs have been looked as opposed to going straight to massage therapists to increase fees. If I had the time and energy, I'd request a full accounting and do a full analysis of the financials and rules and procedures, but that holds minimal interest for me now. And I also wonder if you've factored in the fact that the number of massage therapists in the state will likely decrease due to people like me who will quit the profession, thereby reducing the revenue you receive from these fees.

I sincerely hope that you have thought about the long-term effects of this proposal. Between the cost of going to school for massage therapy and these ongoing recurring expenses, you may be keeping good therapists from joining the profession and driving existing ones, like me, out of the profession.

I hope you have found this helpful. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Peter Santos, LMT
Massage Therapist in good standing
PA License # MSG007978

