

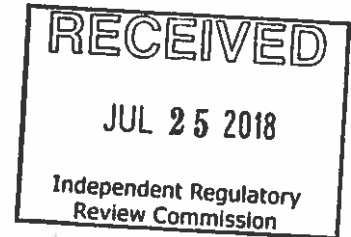
3203

From: Regina Rager
To: ST_RegulatoryCounsel
Subject: RE: Objection to Massage Therapy Licensing Proposal
Date: Sunday, July 22, 2018 8:52:14 PM

To those of who it may concern,

Recently, I have been informed of the proposed increased rate for massage therapists licenses renewal cost. The action of this proposal is disgustingly disappointing.

In 2010, I recall all the stages taken to obtain a license in the state of Pennsylvania. Certifications with specified hours from accredited education facilities is an essential task required. Also, to obtain the CPR/First Aid certifications. In addition to those prerequisites, we must complete 24 hours of continuing education. Hands-on training of 16 hours, 4 completed hours of ethics and the remaining allowed for online courses if need be. Most recently, child abuse classes were added.



Following forward, your proposed cost for the future licensure renewal is \$200. A dramatic increase from the \$75 rate. Therapists across the state already need to obtain liability insurances, ranging from \$90 to nearly \$300 per year. First aid recertification now cost \$120.00. This rate alone increased by one-hundred percent over the last few years. Continuing education classes range from \$60 to beyond for every single class. Sometimes these classes can cost as much as \$500 and above for very little amount of hours completed.

In an addition to those costs, some therapists work with health insurance clients. Credentials cost \$500 every two to three years with each insurance company.

What is the purpose of these numbers?

To educate you on the amount we, the therapists, spend in less than every two years to keep our licenses active.

Our liability insurances require 48 hours every four to five year span. That is understandable and accountable. However, the cost of what is now being demanded of therapists is risking the future of our industry. We have worked long and hard to be respected as licensed professionals. Meanwhile, we still have illicit and unethical practices invading this state that mocks our profession. Passing this proposal will be the downfall of our hard earned community.

Thus, you will lose more money and more therapists. May it be good for some to receive more clients from a therapist that could not afford the distasteful price? Maybe it might help one therapist but it's only hurting another financially and tenacity of helping others.

We are not doctors, nurses, or physical therapists. Our clients are our income and employers do not pay for any of our costs.

Many therapists make income on as seen basis. Meaning, if we do not have clients, there is no pay. Some companies pay hourly and commission. Sadly, that is a rarity for the commonwealth. We also have employers who operate on a near Cinderella rate. Meaning, therapists are required to stay on the premises and complete tasks while not getting paid unless a client walks through the door. These practices are a disadvantage for pay and treatment forced by the employer. Countless therapists have 2 to 3 jobs as it is just to make ends meet.

We have struggled long enough in this industry, let us prosper and succeed to greatness.

If you choose to pass this increased rate, I urge you to rethink your process and decrease our continuing education hours. Active therapists have to keep up with them with or without your requirements. Do we really need to renew every two years? Four would make more sense and would save a lot more time and money for both parties.

We have been standing strong to help others, it's time others begin to help us.

I hope you reconsider given the strong community of massage therapists within this state.

Thank you for your time.
Sincerely,
Mrs. Regina M. Klunk-Rager