

From: Richard Keiper
To: ST, Regulatory Counsel
Subject: Proposed fee increases by the PA State Board of Massage Therapy
Date: Sunday, July 22, 2018 9:31:21 PM

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Dear Ms. Wolfgang,

I am in my 30th year as a self employed massage therapist in Pennsylvania. At this point, five therapists work out of this office, with two more planning to start in September sometime.

When I first heard, this past week, about the proposed fee increase from \$75 to \$200, my reaction was what I would think most people in business, especially self employed people, would think ... that is a huge increase! That is a 166% increase. When we have instituted fee increases over the years, they have been in the range of 4% to 8%, and that not every year and depending upon the economic climate, not for 4 or 5 years.

And so my considerations went to the figures in the bulletin, which I read, regarding the proposed increase. The case was made that the deficit has grown so large, starting from the beginning of this board's existence, that an increase of this magnitude is needed to bail it out. I could not help but question why such a deficit was in place so early on, why more accurate fiscal sight was not employed from the start regarding what money would be needed to stay solvent and where is the money going.

Without more openness regarding the answers to those questions and considerations as to where else spending might be decreased, I am not in favor of such an incredibly huge increase in this one specific expense necessary to working as a massage therapist in this state.

I am writing to express to you my desire that deeper consideration be given to arriving at a more reasonable means of balancing these books, meaning a lower increase in the massage license renewal fee along with other measures.

Thank you for your time to consider my concerns.

Respectfully,
Richard Keiper LMT

