

3203

From: Stephanie Shull
To: ST_RegulatoryCounsel
Subject: LMT proposed fees
Date: Monday, July 23, 2018 4:35:04 PM



Dear Ms. Wolfgang,

I wanted to take a moment to express my opposition to the proposed increase in the fees and rates for massage therapists.

I manage practices for a large healthcare organization in south central Pennsylvania and we have almost 30 LMT's on staff. I am shocked that the only solution to the current funding issues with the PA State Board Of Massage Therapy is to increase the fees on legitimate, law abiding massage therapists! I believe more emphasis must be placed on enforcing the regulations and requirements of those businesses and massage therapists who are not following the law and who should be required to pay fines for their infractions. I attend the Board meetings as often as my schedule permits and I have witnessed time and again when the prosecutor reports that the offenders will surrender their license and cease practicing. How is this fair?

It is unwise from a business perspective that the massage therapy board continues to base their budget on projections that haven't come to fruition in years! The board is making it less appealing for massage therapists to renew their licenses and then increases rates because not as many massage therapists renewed each year.

From a hiring perspective, the applicant pool of qualified candidates is already shrinking and it makes it difficult to meet the growing demands of our patient population. If the board continues to make the fees too expensive for massage therapists to renew their licenses, this will create an even bigger shortage of professionals and will certainly drive the cost of this much-needed treatment onto the consumer.

I recognize that I am not a licensed massage therapist but I care very deeply about the teams I manage, the patients they treat and the work that is done to offer relief from their pain. The work that our massage therapists do is critical to the continuum of care for the patients in the communities we serve.

I urge the Board to find another solution instead of punishing those who work so very hard each and every day.

Kind regards,
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