



**Kansas Association of  
Therapeutic Massage and  
Bodywork, Inc.**

January 29, 2014

The Honorable Representative Dave Crum, Chairman  
Health and Human Services Committee

RE: Licensing for Massage Therapy Bill No. HB2187

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Good day and thank you for your service to the State of Kansas.

My name is Carol Williams. I am president of the Kansas Association of Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork, Inc. (KATMB). KATMB is a state professional organization established in 1984. Please understand we are not a political association; we are a group of bodyworkers in Kansas who have shared a dedication and a strict code of ethics to our profession for many years. I would also like to briefly introduce our executive committee; Barbara Koester, vice-president, from Great Bend; Anne Fisher, past president and current treasurer, from Topeka; Deb Carter, membership chair and secretary, from Topeka; Debb McCurdy, ethics chair, from Wichita; and Cheryl Kumberg, Touch Talk Editor, from Sawyer, KS, who could not be present with us today.

I am here to speak on behalf of our association, members who live and work all across this great state. Circumstances have forced us to become part of this political process in order to protect the best interests of our membership. Historically, KATMB has been opposed to regulation. We also recognize the importance of being open to the present, and moving toward the future. KATMB members have legitimate concerns about how government regulation will impact our businesses and our ability to continue our work. Our members' greatest concerns were related to grandfathering provisions, reasonable fee structures, and the amount of continuing education that would be required, and once a law was established, the door would be open to future amendments that could adversely affect our ability to work.

After the Kansas Department of Health and Environment determined that a bill be written, it was decided by the majority of our membership that a neutral stance be taken. We wish to respectfully express to this Committee that to KATMB, the term “neutral” does not adequately describe our stance in this process (but we couldn’t find a better word). We are not indifferent, uninformed, or disinterested. We have watched, and will continue to watch, this process closely to protect the deserved best interests of our members.

We wish to state for the record that the bill being considered before this committee, HB2187, as it is currently written, and with the inclusion of the amendments added this year, fairly and adequately addresses the concerns of our members.

We appreciate that ATMA and ABMP invited our executive committee to meetings, our members to public forums, they listened to our concerns, and addressed them head-on in this bill. While we cannot state that we are active proponents of this bill, based on the current language, KATMB is not opposing it.

Should the State of Kansas decide to regulate massage therapy, KATMB will continue to monitor the process, speak out when necessary, and assist our members in adaptation and transition.

We put the future of our profession in your good hands.

Thank you for your time today.

Respectfully submitted by KATMB Executive Committee

Carol Williams  
President