

February 9, 2015

House Health and Human Services Committee
Testimony in support of HB2123

Hello Chairman Hawkins and Members of the Committee,

My name is Marla Hieger and as American Massage Therapy Association - Kansas Chapter, Government Relations Chair, I come before you today to represent the support of our chapter membership. We have 351 members in Kansas.

- We support state licensure as it will bring about uniform standards of education, training, standards of practice and ethical requirement for the profession to best protect our citizens.
- Added to this, is the appreciation of contra indications to appropriate practice outlined in the bill, which adds the needed layer of safety for our citizens
- State Licensure of the massage profession will also provide the now absent regulatory oversight of practice under the governance of the KS BON
- We appreciate the fact that local cities and counties have provided local governance of our profession, through local ordinances –however feel that the profession should be licensed at the State level for the professional massage therapist. Cities and counties would still have their business license rights and standards as set for all their businesses.
- It is time for licensure to happen, as Kansas is one of only 5 unregulated states in our nation.

I have been a massage therapist for 11 years. My practice has been up and running in Wamego for 8 years. I practice in hospitals (private clients), nursing homes (private clients), clinic/office setting and also home outcall to our citizens with limited mobility.

I respect your work, and ask for your favorable vote on Senate Bill 40 and ongoing support as the bill passes through the legislative process.

Thank you for your time, today. If I can answer any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

Marla K. Hieger