

On Monday, February 2, 2015 7:58 AM, Joseph Rubino <pathoheart@yahoo.com> wrote:

Dear Ms. Chairman & Fellow Committee Members,

My name is Joe Rubino and I am a Certified Massage Therapist with over 19 years of experience. For the last 9 years I have successfully operated a Therapeutic Massage & Holistic Health Center in Kansas with my wife. We are viewed with high regard in our community.

I am writing today to speak against the proposal HB2123 (SB40) to license and regulate Massage Therapists in Kansas. In 19 years as practicing Massage Therapists my wife and I have never had a single complaint filed against us. We continue to grow our business yearly strictly by word of mouth. Our clients refer their friends and family to us because we are viewed as qualified and competent professionals. We are helping the public, not harming them.

The applicants of this licensing proposal are attempting to scare you into passing state regulations claiming a need to protect the public from harm, yet can provide no evidence that harm is being done to the public. In fact they do provide evidence contrary to what they are claiming. According to the AMTA's "Professional Liability Insurance Claim Summary", they reported 560 claims against massage therapists between 2003 & 2013. That is only 56 claims per year. Wikipedia estimated that in 2003 alone, the American public received 136 million massages. I'll do the math for you – that is approximately 1 claim for every 2,400,000 massages. Further proof that the public is not being harmed is the cost of massage insurance. My

insurance costs for a 2 million dollar liability policy is \$175 dollars per year. That's \$175 per year, not per month, but per year. Why so cheap? The answer is plain and simple – claims of harm are not being made against massage therapists.

If passed, these proposals would harm the public they were intended to protect. Many massage therapists would go out of business, and the many people that they help would no longer have them in their lives. The public would have significantly less choices and options, and restrictions on freedom of choice are rarely if ever a good thing. Prices would go up as well as massage therapists expenses would increase significantly, further restricting the masses from benefiting from this wonderful profession. Personally my clients come to see me because they get health benefits. I have successfully helped relieve symptoms of migraine, neuropathy and fibromyalgia to name a few. Many claim to get more pain relief from massage therapy than any other health practitioner. It saddens me that my clients may lose this benefit.

I have two elementary age children and these proposals would hurt my family financially. The cost of additional testing, licensing and education would increase our expenses monumentally. It would also require a significant amount of time away from our business creating a double whammy. On top of that, the closest massage school to my home is 90 minutes away. State licensing regulations may drive us out of business, leave us unemployed and negatively impact my children's future.

Finally, if passed, this proposal will cost the state of Kansas a lot of money to implement, and a whole lot more

to enforce. According to the newspapers, the state of Kansas is beyond broke. When it is painfully obvious that we need less government, this unnecessary bill was placed before you to scare you into voting for more. Be wise and vote no. Thank You. Respectfully, Joe Rubino