



FSMTB

FEDERATION OF STATE
MASSAGE THERAPY BOARDS

January 31, 2017

Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee
Kansas State Capitol
300 SW 10th St.
Topeka, KS 66612

Re: Senate Bill No. 76 “An Act Concerning Labor; Relating to Professional Occupations; Licensing and Fees, Restrictions”

Dear Chairman LaTurner and Members of the Committee,

The Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards (FSMTB) is appreciative of the opportunity to register written comment on SB 76, “An Act Concerning Labor; Relating to Professional Occupations; Licensing and Fees, Restrictions” to provide education and support to key decision makers.

The mission of the FSMTB is to support our 43 member boards, comprised of massage therapy state licensing boards and agencies in the United States, in their work to ensure that the practice of massage therapy is provided to the public in a safe and effective manner. FSMTB serves the regulatory community and provides benefit from the knowledge gained by combining individual state resources into a larger Federation, the FSMTB. Additionally, the FSMTB is a governing member of both the Federation of Associations of Regulatory Boards (FARB) and the Council for Licensure, Enforcement and Regulation (CLEAR). Our national headquarters is located in Overland Park, Kansas, and we are available as a resource to assist key decision makers in making informed decisions.

Based on this knowledge gained, FSMTB recommends that you do not adopt SB 76. Kansas is one of only four states that does not regulate massage therapy. SB 76 would thwart the efforts of political subdivisions of Kansas to protect their residents from incompetent and dangerous practitioners. Massage therapy is rapidly growing in popularity and the regulation of the profession continues to evolve. SB 76 would prevent political subdivisions from making modifications to current licensure requirements, preventing implementation of process improvement or the engagement of best practices.

While the intentions of the bill to better support military and low-income families are noble, FSMTB does not agree with the methods proposed in SB 76. SB 76 will create an unfunded mandate for cities, and will make the cost of enforcing any existing regulation more burdensome. In massage therapy, enforcement is particularly important to not only protect the public but also to prevent the abuse of the profession for illegal purposes.

Should you have any questions about the FSMTB, please feel free to contact us. Additionally, if we can assist you and the Committee in any other way, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at 913.681.0380 or by email at sway@fsmtb.org.

Truly Yours,

Sonja Way, J.D.
Government Relations Specialist