

Dear Representative Liebling,

It has been awhile since we last met and talked. I have been in touch with some Rochester area practitioners and we are responding in opposition to the HF 1257 Massage Licensing Bill.

The questionnaire that you required completing in support of the license, is the same questionnaire I and other leaders of massage therapist in Minnesota looked at in 1987. At that time we recognized that the primary problem in our practice is boundary issues, something not cured by licensure. In the following years we wrestled with the issue and finally passed the MN Statute Chapter 146.A, that protects the consumer from classic problems in any area of practice. A few years later, we passed the MN Statute Chapter 609.344 and 609.345 which deals with the sexual predator, and carries stiff consequences of fines, prison time and registering as a sex offender. This was done all voluntarily by Minnesota practitioners and consumers.

The proponents of the licensing bills have always been national organizations and local schools. Neither of which supported the bills that we passed. The national organizations repeatedly list Minnesota as not having any regulation, which I find misleading and disdainful.

When neither the Attorney General's Office nor the public are bringing forth complaints of harm, there is no merit in suggesting a license.

I personally have collected documents and studies regarding the lack of harm in massage as a field. I have also counseled with the The Advocates for Human Rights regarding sex trafficking and real resolutions that do not involve licensing of massage therapists.

We are prepared to oppose this bill. Please consider not hearing this bill.

Sincerely,

Barbara York
President of the MTMN
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Minnesota Therapeutic Massage Network
Established 1981