



American Massage Therapy Association
OREGON CHAPTER

TO: Senate Health Care, Human Services and Rural Health Policy Committee
FROM: American Massage Therapy Association Oregon
RE: Health Transformation – SB 1580
DATE: February 1, 2012

The American Massage Therapy Association of Oregon is the not-for-profit professional association created by massage therapists for massage therapists. AMTA-OR's primary goal is to develop and advance the art, science and practice of massage therapy in a caring, professional and ethical manner to promote the health and welfare of humanity. We currently have 1,154 members throughout Oregon.

We have been participating in ongoing conversations with our health care colleagues, as well as with policymakers, in an effort to effect the important legislation on which you are currently working. We applaud your efforts and understand that the amount of information you must receive, analyze and prioritize is immense. We simply urge you to include in your decision-making consideration of all of Oregon's licensed health care providers that make a difference in the preventive care aspects of your constituents' lives.

While your work is to make health care in Oregon more efficient and efficacious and to extend its reach to Oregonians wider, that does not require making its practitioner possibilities smaller. The cost of health care nationally would not be as high if we encouraged citizens to take advantage of the full range of health care choices, rather than the most invasive and expensive. We must provide options and educate people on various ways to meet their health care needs in a preventive manner.

In addition, a transformation health care policy should not only embrace a spectrum of care, but also a sufficient number of licensed practitioners within each specialty to meet the needs of the people. Understanding the economics of price control, we would not suggest *every* provider be included, but do advise *enough* be available to meet the demands placed on each Coordinated Care Organization.

Transformation will be hard and we know it is in the best hands with all of you. We just ask that you include non-discrimination language in the bill regarding the use, availability, and reimbursement for those health professionals deemed important enough to our citizens to be licensed and entrusted to provide care to Oregonians.

We look forward to helping you educate our citizens on the importance of integrated health care based on preventive care involving a spectrum of licensed providers.