



## American Massage Therapy Association OREGON CHAPTER

TO: House Health Care Committee  
FROM: American Massage Therapy Association Oregon Chapter  
RE: HB 2996 - Opposition  
DATE: March 1, 2013

The American Massage Therapy Association (AMTA) is the largest non-profit professional association serving massage therapists, massage students and massage schools. The association is directed by volunteer leadership and fosters ongoing, direct member involvement through its 51 chapters. AMTA works to advance the profession through ethics and standards, the promotion of fair and consistent licensing of massage in all states, and public education on the benefits of massage. The AMTA Oregon (AMTA-OR) chapter currently has 1,070 members throughout Oregon.

AMTA-OR requests your opposition to HB 2996. The language of the bill allows acupuncturists to engage in “massage” in the language of (1)(A) as it says “Asian bodywork *and massage...and manual therapy*”. This is activity the state regulates through the licensed massage therapists practice act in ORS 687. Previous ORS 677 language, now deleted in HB 2996, was very specific to the acupuncturist being able to perform “oriental massage” but this new language goes further. While “Asian bodywork” is not regulated under ORS 687, the vague new language in HB 2996 allows for more modality work than previous granted and runs afoul of the massage statute.

In addition, Section 1 (C) changes the definition of “acupuncture” to allow “The use of electrical, thermal, mechanical or magnetic devices, without needles, on the body” but ORS 687 already regulates the use of thermal and mechanical devices as part of the practice of massage.

While the bill limits the ability of other health practitioners to practice therapies involving needles, it does not bar acupuncturists from using methods currently reserved for other regulated health care providers. We understand that the proposed bill does allow licensed massage therapists to continue such modality work, but we believe the ability for acupuncturists to move into this realm will cause confusion for the public.

We would be happy to instruct our legislative advocate, Cindy Robert, to assist in amending this bill to address these problems, but in its current form, we must ask that you oppose HB 2996.

Thank you for considering our input.