



TO: House Health Care Committee
FROM: AMTA-OR
Leah Bowder, President
DATE: May 13, 2015
RE: Support for SB 298 A

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 1,086 members throughout Oregon.

AMTA-OR strives to serve its members while advancing the art, science and practice of massage therapy. This includes supporting lifelong learning for licensed massage therapists. To that end, AMTA-OR supports SB 298 A.

The bill as amended in the Senate contains an increase in the required amount of continuing education hours needed to be a licensed massage therapist in Oregon. Increasing the requirement from 500 to 625 hours will lead to enhanced provider knowledge, continued growth in an evolving service profession, and improved reciprocity of license with states that have more stringent hourly requirements.

AMTA and our members recognize the value and importance of continuing education. Professional, on-going education is beneficial to every massage therapist and crucial to providing clients with the best health experience possible with the highest standards.

We urge your support of SB 298 A.