



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

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Testimony to House Committee on Health Care

SB 298A – Increases Certified Class Hours for Licensure of Massage Therapists

To: Chair Greenlick Vice-Chair Hayden Vice-Chair Nosse
Representative Buehler Representative Clem Representative Kennemer
Representative Keny-Guyer Representative Lively Representative Weidner

Chair Greenlick and members of the House Committee on Health Care. For the record I am David Fredrickson, I practice clinical therapeutic massage in Ashland, Oregon and I serve as Chair of the Oregon Board of Massage Therapists. I am here today to speak in favor of SB 298A.

As a former private massage school owner and as a current educator in the field, I have been keenly interested in the collaborative efforts of the coalition of Massage Therapy Organizations to identify entry level educational standards for the massage therapy profession.

The coalition is made up of seven national leadership organizations representing massage therapy education, massage school accreditation, professional trade associations and massage therapy regulation.

In 2013 the coalition presented the results of an exhaustive 2 year process in two documents; The Core Entry-Level Massage Education Blueprint and the Entry-Level Analysis Project Report.

A key focus of the project was to recommend the minimum number of instructional hours massage schools/educators need to prepare students for entry into the profession. The study recommended 625 hours of educational instruction. The State of Oregon currently requires a minimum of 500 hours of educational instruction.

The Oregon Board of Massage Therapists supports the minimum core competency standard of 625 instructional hours recommended by the Coalition of Massage Therapy Organizations.

Currently, the 12 massage therapy programs in Oregon provide an average of 680 hours of entry level instruction. As a group they broadly support the increase of instructional hours in SB 298. Leading public and private programs recognize the need to exceed the present Oregon minimum requirement of 500 hours to meet the increasing needs of the profession.

The health care industry demands entry-level massage therapy programs that strengthen core competencies, elevate instruction and provide clear learning objectives and guidelines. When these demands are met a primary care provider will recognize the power of evidence-based massage therapy for the treatment of pain, stress, injury and chronic musculoskeletal conditions. Strengthened massage therapy instructional programs better serve the public whose safety the Oregon Board of Massage seeks to serve and protect.

I ask for your support of SB 298A to help ensure that Oregon remains a national leader in the field of massage therapy education.

Respectfully submitted,

David Fredrickson

David Fredrickson
Board Chair