

Testimony Re: HB 2564
House Health and Human Services Committee

February 8, 2012

Madam Chair and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to speak today. I am Candy Bahner and I am speaking on behalf of the Kansas Physical Therapy Association in opposition of HB 2564 as written. I have practiced as a physical therapist in Kansas since 1978 and have worked in multiple settings, including administration and teaching in a Doctor of Physical Therapy Program and Physical Therapist Assistant Program, private practice, outpatient, skilled nursing and inpatient physical therapy services.

The Kansas Physical Therapy Association (KPTA) does support the credentialing of massage therapists in the state of Kansas and sees this as a positive direction for massage therapy practitioners and for the protection of Kansas consumers. The KPTA currently stands in opposition to HB 2564 with a few simple requests for change in the current language of the "practice of massage therapy" and with the definition of "massage therapy services". We first received this bill in the middle of last week and have forwarded to the massage therapists, suggested changes within the currently proposed language for the "practice of massage therapy" and the "definition of massage therapy services". We would appreciate the opportunity to work with the massage therapists prior to this current bill being worked or moved within this committee.

In short, our concerns deal with the current definition of the "practice" and "services" of massage therapy as the definition infers the restoration of general health within its definition and clearly calls for a "treatment plan". Their current terminology within the definition and scope of services needs to be modified in order NOT to lead the public into believing that the practice and services of massage therapists are part of a healthcare treatment plan.

We are very willing to work with the massage therapists in a very timely fashion to assist with the above mentioned definitions as they pursue the credentialing of massage therapists. However we cannot support this current bill without being afforded the opportunity to work with them on compromise language.

We have included our suggested changes as presented to the massage therapists as a separate document attached to this testimony.

Thank you for permitting me to testify. I welcome any questions you may have for me.

Page 1 beginning on line 22

(f) "Practice of massage therapy" means the care and services provided by a massage therapist in a system of therapeutic, structured touch, palpation or movement of the soft tissue of another person's body in order to relieve stress, promote general relaxation, enhance and restore a general sense of well-being to the recipient.

Beginning on n page 2 line 10

- (1) Development, implementation and modification of massage therapy that addresses client soft tissue manifestations, needs and concerns, including identifying indications, contraindications and precautions of massage therapy within the scope of the act.
- (2) obtaining informed consent regarding the massage therapy risks, benefits, application; and modification as needed.

Page 6 line 22

Strike "naturopathic doctor" and replace with massage therapist.

Page 7 beginning with line 9

competency. The board shall require every licensed massage therapist as a condition of renewal to submit with the application for a renewal evidence of satisfactory completion of a program of continuing education required by the board. The board shall establish the requirements for each such program of continuing education by rules and regulations.