January 14, 2018

Rep. Maida Townsend The House Committee On Government Relations 115 State Street Montpelier, VT 05633

Dear Rep Townsend,

I support licensure of massage therapists in the State of Vermont. It will ensure a basic level of competency and ensure public safety.

As a resident and business owner in the State of Vermont, I regularly rely on massage therapy to keep me healthy and active. My line of work requires physical agility and injuries occasionally do happen. I am fortunate to know who the educated and trained therapists are, but most ordinary citizens would have difficulty in finding this information.

It is my understanding that currently anyone can open up a business in the State of Vermont and claim to be a massage therapist. Untrained and/or under-educated therapists could seriously hurt a patient.

In a State that prides itself on a population of healthy active residents, it seems obvious to me that we need a basic system of licensure for massage therapists. Virtually every other state has this.

Regards,

Teddy Weber Owner Tin Hat Cider Roxbury, Vermont