

#### H.472 Testimony

Why increase the registration fees when no licensure is required?

I am a massage therapist practicing for 19 years. I pay fees to the American Massage Therapy Association which requires 24 continuing education credits every 2 years. I am also Nationally certified through the National Certification Board for Massage Therapy & Bodywork. which required a minimum of 750 hours of education to qualify for the certification and 24 cec every two years. The fees I pay to these two entities benefit me as they show my dedication to my profession and my willingness to improve my education and skill levels. In addition the National Certification Board for Massage Therapy & Bodywork requires a background check with every renewal.

The fees Vermont charges are just to have a massage therapist registered and does nothing to ensure the massage therapist has any qualifications at all. Anybody "off the street" can register as a massage therapist with the State of Vermont. If Vermont is going to charge these fees and then furthermore increase the fee, shouldn't there be some sort of requirement for credentials?

We are massage therapists and **NOT** Masseuses, which has a negative connotation. I work hard at my practice and want to be seen as a professional. And, I want massage therapy in general to be seen as legitimate.

Vermont should require some sort of licensure backed by some sort of credentials.

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