

H.472

Submitted Written Testimony

March 18, 2025

Dear Chair Kornheiser,

I am writing to express my concern over the fees being placed on massage therapists in our state.

OPR does not license massage therapists. The level of regulation is simply Registration. Massage therapists are now expected to pay the same or more than some fully licensed professionals regulated by the OPR.

There was a low initial application fee of \$75 in 2021 which we felt was commensurate with the level of regulation. Now, renewal fees are a staggering \$275 for two year coverage!

To put this into perspective I am also a licensed massage therapist in New York, the state with the highest requirements and regulations in the country for this profession and my renewal fees in 2023 for a 3 year period of coverage was \$103.

There must be an equitable and transparent fee structure that reflects the level of regulation imposed on massage therapists. I stand with the call for lower registration fees and increased regulation for registration or licensure in the massage therapy profession in our state. Please consider this during Wednesday's vote.

Thank you for your attention,

Melissa Bartley

NYS Licensed and Nationally Certified Massage Therapist since 2015

Registered with Vermont since 2021