

Dear Chair Kornheiser & Senior Staff Associate Anderson –

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.

This matters because there are folks in Vermont who call themselves massage therapists with only 40 hours of training. There are other folks with 200 hours of training. I personally attended an American Bodywork and Massage Professional program and received 750 hours of training which included ethics, pathology and a whole lot of anatomy to keep my clients safe.

In 2021, there was a \$75 fee, which was commensurate with the level of regulation. Now, renewal fees are a staggering \$275 for two-year coverage. This might be applicable if there was some regulation happening. However, there is not. We as massage therapists in Vermont are just required to register with any amount of training, or none at all.

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,

Mindy Pistacchio
Roots and Tides Massage and Yoga

Certified Massage Therapist since
Registered with Vermont since 2021