

House Bill 2187 House Health and Human Services Committee

My name is Alicia Dale and I am a member of Associated Bodywork & Massage Professionals (ABMP.) ABMP is the largest national professional association for massage therapists. It provides professional liability insurance, business resources, professional publications, and legislative and regulatory advocacy for members. ABMP has more than 82,000 members nationwide, including more than 650 members in Kansas.

I have been practicing massage in Wichita for 10 years. I own Dynamic Bodyworks Massage located at Maple and Tyler. I specialize in helping people regain mobility and reduce tension. By reducing tension in the body we are able to heal more quickly, gain mobility, and maintain our mobility. Licensing is important for the protection of my clients as well as establishing a standard of practice. Many of my clients have seen other therapists and have expressed the vast difference in service. Many have been hurt or felt uncomfortable with a particular therapist. I sympathize with their experience, but not having an established licensing system leaves clients with distrust in our profession. Prostitution has long been associated with massage, licensing I believe would legitimize our profession and help to move us in the direction of preventative health in Wichita. Wichita has done much to correct the prostitution storefront and have had several businesses closed. Lacking enforcement in massage therapy those businesses had no problem reopening. Enforcing licensing would help to gain public trust as well as provide a way for complaints to be resolved quicker with appropriate consequences. A standard in minimum requirements would provide the public with a safer ideology of massage therapy. With that ideology should be a high priority of assurance that each client will receive a safe and professional service with no danger to themselves emotionally, physically, or sexually.