



To: Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee

From: Travis R. Oller, DC
Executive Director
Kansas Chiropractic Association

Date: March 15, 2022

Subject: SB 531; Enacting the massage therapist licensure act to provide for regulation and licensing of massage therapists

Neutral Testimony

Chairman Hilderbrand and other members of this committee, I appreciate the opportunity today to present neutral testimony on SB 531; Enacting the massage therapist licensure act to provide for regulation and licensing of massage therapists.

The Kansas Chiropractic Association represents over 1,100 Doctors of Chiropractic in Kansas and their patients. I have been a licensed Doctor of Chiropractic in Kansas since January 2001. I have practiced in a variety of office environments from a small, one-doctor office with no staff to a large multi-disciplinary office with other Doctors of Chiropractic, Physical Therapists, Massage Therapists, and a Doctor of Medicine. In all of these practice environments I have seen that massage therapists have a role in the complex puzzle of pain management.

The Kansas Chiropractic Association has supported similar legislation in the past, and we feel that licensure of massage therapists is essential to protect the citizens of Kansas by ensuring that all massage therapists are licensed and are practicing within a legal framework.

While we continue to support licensure of massage therapists, we are concerned with placing that licensure under the Kansas Board of Healing Arts. The Kansas Board of Healing Arts licenses a number of healthcare professions; however, very few of those professions have direct access to patients without the need for a referral or a collaborative agreement. All the KSBHA licensees with direct patient access currently have Masters level or higher educational requirements.

Previous versions of this bill have placed massage therapists licensure under the Kansas Board of Nursing or the Kansas Board of Cosmetology. The KCA feels that either of these boards are more appropriate to provide oversight for massage therapists as this bill is currently written.



We ask that the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee consider moving licensure of massage therapists in SB 531 to the Kansas Board of Nursing as it was in the 2015 and 2017 versions of this bill. With this change we would support passage of SB 531.

Travis R. Oller, DC
Executive Director
Kansas Chiropractic Association