

Testimonial in opposition to HF 644: March 3, 2015

To the Members of the House, Health, and Human Services Reform Committee:

I am opposed the this bill for the following reasons:

1- It is unnecessary, because, just like the dozens of other complementary and alternative modalities covered under MN statute 146a, **there is no evidence of either widespread or significant harm** let alone both, which is the criteria for regulation according to Chapter 214.

Do you think it is practical for each of those modalities to come before you to ask to create licensing boards? According to Associated Bodywork and Massage Professionals, **there are as many as 250 types of massage and bodywork**, from energetic work that uses little to no touch to deep rigorous work like Rolfing. And new modalities are always evolving.

2- This bill, should it become law, **puts myself and many other bodywork practitioners at risk of not being able to continue providing our beneficial services** IF *the municipality* where we practice decides to REQUIRE what is proposed here as voluntary.

I have a colleague **that became a minister in order to be able to touch people** and do her work in her municipality, which regulates massage therapists.

Perhaps there will be a huge proliferation of new ministers should this bill pass.

3- We, who have different training and therapeutic goals in touching the body, in my case addressing developmental challenges through therapeutic rocking and infant reflex integration, **might be forced to take 500 hours of massage therapy training that we have no interest in implementing.**

Would it be fair for any of the 249 other modalities to do the same?...disallow commonly used techniques because **they** do not understand **how they impact, for example, neurological development**, should **my** modality come to be regulated?

This bill is setting a precedent for more unnecessary licensure bills.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

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