



# Business League for Massage Therapy & Bodywork (BLMTB)

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**Newsletter / Legislative Update** January 27, 2009

#0028

## **Massage Licensure Bill News:**

Deborah Kimmert met with the sponsor of the Massage Therapy Licensure bill (LC 859) late last week. The language of the bill is in flux, but Deborah was able to present most of the BLMTB's concerns to Rep. Elsie Arntzen, the sponsor. We believe that she heard and understood our concerns although due to time constraints we were not able to discuss them all. Whether that will turn into language changes that remains to be seen.

Since the language is not settled, we are not going to recommend any action by our members at this time. Once we see the official draft, we'll make our determination then.

## **Health Freedom vs. Massage Therapy Licensure bill:**

It's easy to get caught up in the emotion of both issues and think that in order for massage therapy licensure to succeed, that health freedom must die. This could not be further from the truth: the BLMTB believes both are needed and both are desired.

While Massage Therapy licensure benefits the massage therapists, it does not grant the full consumer access and protection to any other profession in the way that a health freedom bill will.

When looking at both issues we need to keep in mind that killing one bill won't guarantee the other will be passed. We encourage you to understand that both bills need to be considered separately and considered on their own merits. This is the position of the BLMTB and we hope that it will be yours too.

## **Health Freedom:**

The BLMTB is a member organization of the Montana Health Freedom Coalition, and the MHFC is a loose confederation consisting of a wide variety of unlicensed alternative and complementary health care practitioners and groups scattered throughout the state.

**SB 287, The Consumer Health Freedom and Access Act has been introduced and is scheduled for a hearing on Monday February 9<sup>th</sup> at 9am in the capitol building in Helena. We would like our members to call their legislators to support this effort before the hearing (Feb 9<sup>th</sup>). To learn more see the attached information.**

Thanks for your support!

Yours in Health,  
The BLMTB Board of Directors:  
Vianna, Patty & Deb

# Health Freedom -- Advocacy

## **SB 287 - THE CONSUMER HEALTH FREEDOM AND ACCESS BILL - HAS BEEN INTRODUCED... YOUR HELP IS NEEDED NOW!**

### What You Can Do NOW (Action Alert):

The boards and professional organizations have the money and the lobbyists to highly organize - our greatest resource is our people too. We need everyone (including friends, family, clients, etc.) to overwhelm them with numbers. If you don't think your involvement will make a difference, go to our website version and click on this section to read a real life experience of how your contact can make a difference.

Right now, if you're thinking, well if everyone else does it I don't need to... but if everyone else thinks that way too, then we won't have anyone! So please step up to the plate and do your part!

### **1. CALL Helena: 444-4800 and get everyone you know to call too.**

Do this between Now and the hearing on Monday, Feb. 9th.

Ask to leave a message for the Senate Business, Labor & Economic affairs committee.

The message: you can use your own words but this is the basic message:

"I support SB 287 - The Consumer Health Freedom and Access Act- and urge you to vote for it."

If this is applicable for you, also say: "I am a consumer of unlicensed alternative and complementary health care and this bill is very important to me."

If you're a practitioner, don't tell them you are a practitioner (they'll take that for granted)... it's more important for the legislators to know that a consumer is speaking up... but EVERY call helps.

### **2. Make a 2nd call to the number above and leave the same message to your own Senator representing your area. Look below for a cheat sheet to find the name of your senator.**

### **3. Clear your Schedule to go to the hearing in Helena: Monday, Feb. 9 at 9am**

Plan to be there at 8:45am

Where: In Helena capitol bldg. in Room 422 (you have to go through the gallery on the 4th floor that's above the old supreme court chambers to get to the rooms behind it).

Before you shrug this one off as you have nothing to say or that you don't have time

a. it says a lot to legislators if nobody shows up... this is your livelihood we're talking about here - and your client's health. You need to be there. Your clients need to be there.

THE NUMBERS HAVE A HUGE IMPACT -- and given the fact that legislators like this bill: we have 13 senate co-sponsors (including the sponsor) -- and more who said they like the bill -- this WILL put us over the top!

b. It's important that we pack that hearing room -- even if all you do is stand there. Also, if you want to, you can testify by saying simply: "Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, my name is \_\_\_ and I support this bill." That's all you have to say....

And if you want to testify and say more, please let us know NOW, so that we can coordinate and create an orchestrated impact... we want to set up some order to the testimony so that it will have the greatest impact. If you have a story to tell, or have something to say, we want to hear it!!

## Senator List By Area:

This list is by no means accurate as there is overlap in areas. The best bet is to scan for the town names and find the ones closest to you. Names in parenthesis ( ) are on the committee and should already have been contacted when you contacted the committee.

### North Central: (North and west of Great Falls)

Browning: JUNEAU

Shelby: BLACK

Cascade: HAMLETT

Great Falls: SCHMIDT, M. TROPILA, (J. TROPILA)

### Central & Eastern: (everything east of Great Falls)

Buffalo: (PETERSON)

Box Elder: (WINDY BOY)

Harlem: HANSEN

Scobey: BRENDEN

Sidney: (STEINBEISSER)

Otter: BALES

### BILLINGS AREA :

Crow Agency: (STEWART-PEREGOY)

Huntley: T. BROWN

Roundup: GEBHARDT

Billings: GILLAN, (R. BROWN), MOSS, BRANAE, ESSMANN

Laurel: MCGEE

Park City: STORY

### BOZEMAN AREA:

Big Timber: ESP

Bozeman: JENT, HAWKS, (BALYEAT)

Manhattan: PERRY

### BUTTE AREA:

Dillon: BARRETT

Butte: GALLUS, (KEANE)

Cardwell: MURPHY

Anaconda: LASLOVICH

### HELENA AREA:

Helena: COONEY, KAUFMANN, LEWIS

Wolf Creek: RIPLEY

### MISSOULA AREA:

Darby: LAIBLE

Victor: SHOCKLEY

Missoula: WILLIAMS, ERICKSON, (SQUIRES), WANZENRIED, LARSEN

### NORTHWEST MONTANA:

Fortine: CURTISS

Whitefish: ZINKE

Kalispell: TUTVEDT, (BARKUS), (JACKSON), BRUEGGEMAN

T-Falls: HINKLE