



Associated Bodywork & Massage Professionals

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January 17, 2023

TO: Sandy Anderson and Elisabeth Barnard

RE: ABMP Comments in Support of the Interstate Massage Compact

VIA EMAIL

Associated Bodywork & Massage Professionals (ABMP) provides professional liability insurance, business resources, professional publications, and legislative and regulatory advocacy for more than 80,000 members nationwide, including over 1,200 members in Nevada.

ABMP is writing in support of the Nevada State Board of Massage Therapy's position regarding the Interstate Massage Compact (Compact). ABMP worked with the Council of State Governments and the Department of Defense to draft this language and believes the Compact is ultimately a benefit to massage therapists, as it will allow licensed practitioners to gain employment easier and faster in other compact states.

The Compact is a vastly superior alternative to onerous licensure-by-endorsement processes. It will be advantageous to military families moving around the country, reduce financial burdens of massage therapists requiring and paying for multiple state licenses, and may affect Nevada's bottom line with potential increased taxable income. The Compact will also assist the Nevada State Board of Massage Therapy by enhancing public safety, reducing application processing time, and expanding cooperation among state regulatory boards.

The Compact bill language was carefully drafted to ensure that licensed massage therapists will be properly educated and vetted. Once a minimum of seven states passes the bill and the Interstate Massage Compact Commission drafts rules, massage therapists in participating states will be able to obtain a multi-state license so long as they have 625 hours of education and no encumbrances against their license in their home state. Participating states will require continuing education for license renewal, criminal background checks, and a disciplinary process.

ABMP fully supports the Compact's efforts to increase the mobility of lawfully practicing massage therapists in compact-participating states and supports the introduction of the Compact language to the legislature.

Please contact ABMP Government Relations Director Laura Embleton at laura@abmp.com or by phone at 303-679-7645 if you have comments or questions.

Sincerely,

Laura B. Embleton, Government Relations Director
Associated Bodywork & Massage Professionals