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*Elisabeth Barnard*



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## **Nevada State Board of Massage Therapy**

July 17, 2024

To whom it may concern:

On June 12, 2023, the Nevada Governor signed Senate Bill 161 of the 2023 Legislative Session (“SB 161”). In enacting SB 161, Nevada became the first state to join the Interstate Massage Compact (“IMPact”). The Nevada State Board of Massage Therapy (“Board”) proudly supported SB 161 throughout the legislative process. The Board believed at that time, and continues to believe, that IMPact meets the public safety and licensure requirements of our State. Further the Board believes that enactment of SB 161 helps support its mission to protect the public by enhancing communication amongst jurisdictions.

The Board believes in the positive potential of IMPact for advancing our regulatory goals, supporting our licensees, the industry, and our State economy. IMPact helps Nevada businesses draw from a larger pool of appropriately qualified and licensed individuals to help fill vacancies in the massage and spa industry that are integral to the tourism industry in Las Vegas and the rest of the State.

The Board does not believe that altering the IMPact language or statutory requirements is in the best interest of the industry or the public. Any changes to the language of the IMPact would result in further legislation and a delay in its implementation. We look forward to further supporting the workforce of licensed professionals and consumer access to massage therapy in our State when the IMPact is fully enacted.

Sincerely,

Elisabeth Barnard  
Executive Director