



The Nevada Chapter of the American Massage Therapy Association

Empowering Nevada Massage Therapists

David J Otto, LMT, Government Relations Committee
AMTA-Nevada Chapter
7115 Souverain Ln
Reno NV 89506
January 27, 2012

Glenn D Savage, REHS, Environmental Health Director
Southern Nevada Health District
PO Box 3902
Las Vegas NV 89127

Mr. Savage:

As Government Relations Committee Chair for the American Massage Therapy Association-Nevada Chapter (AMTA-NV), I am writing to express our opposition to the newly proposed massage regulations for the Southern Nevada Health District. AMTA-NV is a non-profit, professional membership association representing approximately 500 massage therapists in Nevada.

As currently written, the new regulations would encompass massage therapists, establishments, reflexologists and reflexology establishments. However, the authority to regulate massage therapy resides with the Nevada State Board of Massage Therapists, as established in NRS 640C. As such, the proposed regulations are inconsistent with statewide massage therapy regulation and would result in an undue financial burden upon legitimate massage therapists in the district. Further, we believe that the duplicated processes and regulations would not provide any additional benefit to consumers or practitioners. Supporting our belief is the fact that SNHD does not provide for such duplicated regulation of any professions similar to massage therapy, including physical therapy and cosmetology.

Massage therapy can have a significant impact on an individual's health and well-being. It is in the best interest of the general public to maintain the clear authority of the Massage Therapy Practice Act. The continued regulation of massage therapy consistent with NRS 640C is essential to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the general public. Based upon the lack of consistency with state law, the unnecessary additional burden upon practitioners and the lack of consistency among professions, AMTA-NV is strongly opposed to the proposed regulations.

In light of the serious implications for massage therapy practitioners and consumers, we respectfully request that all proposed regulatory language impacting massage therapy, massage therapists and massage establishment be removed from the proposal.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

David J Otto, LMT, Government Relations Committee
AMTA-Nevada Chapter