The American Massage Therapy Association - Nevada Chapter
500 Davis St, Ste 900, Evanston IL 60201
amtaboard@amta-nv.org www.amta-nv.org
(775) 556-0300

August 19, 2020

Nevada State Board of Massage Therapy
% Sandy Anderson, Executive Director
The Nevada State Board of Massage Therapy
1755 E. Plumb Lane, Suite 252
Reno NV 89502

Dear Board Members:

The AMTA-Nevada Chapter is composed of 1091 members spanning the entire state of Nevada. Our chapter-members are in whole or in part NSBMT-licensed massage therapists. I am writing to you today on behalf of those members as the AMTA - Nevada Chapter President.

While the profession of Massage Therapy in Nevada being classified as healthcare is not a new concept, recent events have brought back the exploration of this topic. Our mission as an association is to serve our members while advancing the art, science and practice of massage therapy...and its integrative relationship to healthcare.

We understand that at the NSBMT's Meeting on May 8th, 2020, a large number of Public Comments were focused on massage therapy as a viable form of healthcare. So, our Chapter Board of Directors recently surveyed its members to collect and present their opinions on Massage Therapy as Healthcare in Nevada.

When presented with this Question: "*Would you support the profession of Massage Therapy in Nevada to be included in the category of "Provider of healthcare," as described in and related to NRS 629 "Healing Arts Generally"?*", we found that 13.4% of the total Chapter Members with email addresses (1056) took the survey, and of those 142 Respondents, **98.6%** answered **"Yes"**. The Chapter also collected 58 comments elaborating on their Responses (attached).

After receiving a large survey sample from our Chapter Members indicating such positive support of massage therapy as healthcare, the Nevada Chapter wants to express that we support any action the Board may consider in the future for moving forward the classification of massage therapy into healthcare provider status in Nevada, under NRS 629.

Thank you for receiving our letter & survey results. If the Board has any additional questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Benion, Chapter President
elizabethbenion@amta-nv.org
American Massage Therapy Association, Nevada Chapter

Attachment: *Survey Responses, with Comments*

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Attachment: *Survey Responses, with Comments*

20200723 Massage Therapy as Healthcare survey			
Submission Time	Would you support the profession of Massage Therapy in Nevada to be included in the category of "Provider of healthcare," as described in and related to NRS 629 "Healing Arts Generally"?		
	Yes	No	Comment
	140	**2**	
7/23/2020 15:24:12	1		
7/23/2020 15:25:34	1		
7/23/2020 15:36:46	1		
7/23/2020 15:39:19	1		Absolutely beneficial as continual wellness for all!
7/23/2020 15:50:43	1		Massage therapy is part of the allied health community, and therapists that go above and beyond to educate themselves and help their patients should be recognized as such.
7/23/2020 15:44:09	1		I absolutely believe that massage should be in the category of Provider of Healthcare.
7/23/2020 15:46:04	1		
7/23/2020 15:48:42	1		
7/26/2020 11:18:28	1		
7/23/2020 15:51:49	1		I love it!
7/23/2020 15:54:07	1		
7/23/2020 16:16:53	1		So long as (a) LMTs still were able to see general non-medical clients on a direct basis, i.e., without a referral from another health care provider; and (b) LMTs otherwise were trained in & respected the limitations on their scope of practice, including, if applicable, (i)any requirement of a referral from a direct access provider (such as a MD) for medical patient care & (ii) limits on their ability to diagnose & assess. As a caveat, I am licensed in La. not NV & do not practice MT currently.
7/23/2020 16:11:08	1		Massage therapy is therapeutic and essential to health and the overall body.
7/23/2020 16:19:55	1		YES! MT is a highly effective method of treatment for pain, stress, and anxiety. Healing for both physical and mental health. It is absolutely worthy to be considered essential health care.

7/23/2020 16:16:13	1		
7/23/2020 16:28:08	1		
7/23/2020 16:29:48	1		
7/23/2020 16:44:40	1		Massage is a great way for health prevention. It can help keep peple from invasively procedure and to stabilize current diagnosis. Is a great way to recover from complicated long hospitalizations.
7/23/2020 16:41:39	1		Yes
7/23/2020 16:44:17	1		
7/23/2020 16:59:53	1		
7/23/2020 16:59:49	1		
7/23/2020 17:07:24	1		
7/23/2020 17:21:37	1		Most of my clients come to me for healthcare purposes and I work hand in hand with chiropractors who refer me as a compliment to their healthcare programs I also work with several attorneys who represent car accident cases to help their clients recover I have always identified what I do as a healthcare practice and would love to be seen as such in Nevada
7/23/2020 17:21:52	1		
7/23/2020 17:23:49	1		
7/23/2020 17:34:32	1		
7/23/2020 17:48:48	1		
7/23/2020 17:53:09	1		
7/23/2020 17:53:29	1		
7/23/2020 18:05:05	1		Massage therapy is known to enhances relaxation, healing and therapeutic benefits pre and post injury/discomfort/strain.
7/23/2020 19:18:43	1		I help people live pain free lives. I help people who have tried everything else and nothing worked for them. I have helped people reduce the amount of medications they need to manage their conditions. I keep people in wheelchairs able to get in and out of their cars. I help athletes prevent injury. I am healthcare.
7/23/2020 19:18:23	1		
7/23/2020 19:36:10	1		

7/24/2020 22:15:16	1		Massage therapy offers many benefits and helps improve the overall health in so many ways. I work hard to promote massage as something people need, not just a "treat" and so I believe we should be regarded as providers of healthcare.
7/23/2020 20:12:47	1		
7/23/2020 21:13:54	1		
7/24/2020 06:13:11	1		
7/23/2020 21:18:32	1		Massage therapy should absolutely be considered a part of health care. There are multiple studies showing the health benefits of receiving and maintaining massages in all stages of life to help heal the body and allow it to recover from injuries, surgeries, mental health problems and so much more more therapists specialize in specific areas than the ones that just practice general massage
7/23/2020 21:23:27	1		
7/23/2020 21:33:27	1		
7/23/2020 21:56:26	1		
7/23/2020 22:36:58	1		
7/23/2020 23:02:47	1		
7/23/2020 23:57:26	1		
7/24/2020 00:13:18	1		Yes. The body has no differentiation between mental stress and physical stress. Massage not only clearly helps in the field of manual therapy but also in terms of mental clarity and other therapeutic modalities.
7/24/2020 07:12:11	1		
7/24/2020 07:23:26	1		
7/24/2020 07:55:16	1		
7/24/2020 08:36:05	1		
7/24/2020 10:17:20	1		Many of my clients value my services as part of their essential healthcare. With the shut down many of my clients regressed. Massage is essential for some people's health and well-being.
7/24/2020 11:02:44	1		
7/24/2020 11:17:34	1		
7/24/2020 12:23:01	1		

7/24/2020 12:52:51	1		Growing up my mother had various surgeries and I saw how much massage can impact rehab. I was told IÃ¢Â€Â™d be handicapped my whole life because of a neck injury from a car accident, Massage was vital in my rehab. My friends have some type of pain that makes being there for others challenging and massage is incredibly impactful. I meet countless people, anxious from the challenges of life, massage is key. The stories are never ending. Massage is much more than relaxation and we realize that now
7/24/2020 15:12:15	1		Massage is now knot for relaxation as had been understood for years. Itâ€™s a modality that provides individuals an opportunity for recovery and healing on mind, body and souls without the use of opium in some cases.
7/24/2020 20:03:35	1		
7/24/2020 22:52:08	1		The healing touch and thoughtful therapeutic sessions should be part of a total health care practice
7/25/2020 06:33:29	1		
7/25/2020 10:29:52	1		
7/25/2020 12:21:55	1		Have worked with many clients that need massage for medical reasons. Some have presented with a physicians prescription for massage. Therapists that want to categorize themselves as Medical Massage Therapists should have more CEU's than presently required in NV. I went to school of Medical Massage in Ohio where we were educated in Medical conditions along with an A&P instructor that taught medical students. I support bill if education requirements for title of MedicalMassageTherapist is increse
7/25/2020 16:58:23	1		Absolutely! There are different style of work and some are more than others but I believe this wholeheartedly and completely!
7/26/2020 10:38:14	1		It definitely helps with health issues
7/26/2020 10:38:41	1		
7/26/2020 10:50:40	1		Yes, because MT in itself can change a personâ€™s life! Reducing and even eliminating the need to medications and surgery by facilitating the movement of fluids and tissues and muscles!
7/26/2020 10:56:17	1		
7/26/2020 10:54:44	1		
7/26/2020 10:59:20	1		
7/26/2020 11:06:44	1		Over 90% of my clients come to me for pain relief. The shutdown has been catastrophic as far as pain management for some of my clients. Iâ€™m letting all of the people who have returned know that the Governor capitulated to a degree and said that if someone has a prescription for massage it would be considered healthcare so if thereâ€™s another shutdown I can continue to help people.
7/26/2020 11:06:09	1		

8/1/2020 09:36:32	1		Most of my clients have back problems or some other aliment and look to me to give them relief. It's about time this profession be considered an alternative pain/healing alternative to drugs.
7/26/2020 11:15:40	1		
7/26/2020 11:20:46	1		There may be undesirable ramifications, including driving reimbursements down as clients choose to use insurance rather than cash. Insurance reimbursement is likely much lower, plus overhead of billing insurance, delayed payment and potential negotiations regarding billing codes, hours, etc.
7/26/2020 11:30:11	1		
7/26/2020 13:05:52	1		
7/26/2020 13:21:13	1		
7/26/2020 13:35:25	1		If you go to school to learn massage you are taught healing as a general rule. If you go of went to a school that offered medical massage as their curriculum then a therapist is fully trained in the art of healing.
7/26/2020 13:46:12	1		I'm consistently getting clients whose dr's tell them to get massages. Sometimes it's the only thing that will help them.
7/26/2020 15:14:31	1		Yes.
8/1/2020 11:05:04	1		
7/26/2020 16:40:25	1		
7/26/2020 17:16:07	1		I believe it is important for the public to see LMT as healthcare providers.
7/26/2020 20:45:09	1		
7/26/2020 21:30:14	1		
7/26/2020 21:56:45	1		
7/27/2020 01:13:34	1		
7/27/2020 08:46:13	1		I believe the majority of chronic illness in our country can be improved without drugs! Massage can make a big contribution to helping people avoid long term drug use for health issues related to diet and lifestyle
7/27/2020 08:41:20	1		
7/27/2020 13:11:06		1	This would be a major step in massage therapy being absorbed and controlled by the medical profession. New licensing laws would limit the application of massage to a few conditions deemed appropriate by the medics and the overall wellness application would be lost.
7/27/2020 13:01:39	1		
7/27/2020 13:01:44	1		

7/27/2020 16:07:21	1		I support this ONLY if it could be done without imposing additional financial and/or regulatory burden on LMTs, especially those who do not work in clinical settings. While I support massage therapy being recognized as a Healing Art, I am not confident that changing categories would prevent future restrictions to access (elective surgeries, cancer treatments, etc were restricted) & worry that regulatory burden may outweigh the perceived reward.
7/27/2020 16:14:07	1		
7/27/2020 16:48:12	1		
7/27/2020 17:54:01	1		
7/28/2020 07:52:36	1		I would support the profession to be included as Healthcare Provider; however I do believe we would need to better closely monitor those with a license to practice. The transition to a Healthcare category would require a stronger stance against inappropriate use of massage within the industry. Honestly I do not believe that all LMTs would qualify for a Healthcare role if they were held to a higher standard; to include: specified CEUs, annual retreats, mentorship program similar to a Physician.
7/28/2020 07:56:13	1		
7/28/2020 08:33:27	1		Yes it necessary both for mental and physical health.
7/28/2020 11:17:32	1		
7/28/2020 11:30:01	1		
7/28/2020 12:12:55	1		Even massage for relaxation is all about self care/health care. Mentally or physically, this is all connected.
7/28/2020 12:30:58	1		
7/28/2020 15:32:53	1		
7/28/2020 16:42:29	1		Massage therapy changes peopleâ€™s lives and health in an abundance of ways.
7/29/2020 14:28:55	1		The better we are educated, the more useful we are to our needy clients.
7/29/2020 17:50:34	1		I originally am a massage therapist from Vancouver, BC. And massage therapy is covered by medical for many people. You would have to wait two weeks to two months to get an appointment with me. Now I live in Nevada and have been licensed just over a year. I am seeing a big difference as I work doing home visits because working in a clinic setting or for a spa does not bring enough income for the value of work I provide. I have graduated as a massage therapist through a three year program.
7/30/2020 15:45:25	1		

7/30/2020 16:52:58	1		Massage therapy should be officially accepted in healthcare as it goes together with all kinds of medical treatments (recovery, post-surgery, pain reducing and etc)which positively effects people's health. In many countries massage therapy is a part of healthcare and is billed to medical insurance.
7/31/2020 10:56:52	1		
8/1/2020 10:03:19	1		I absolutely support massage being reclassified as a healing art and massage therapists being considered a provider of healthcare because we are.
8/1/2020 09:46:16	1		A grandfathering program should be clearly outlined for current professionals as to not interrupt their practices.
8/1/2020 09:46:56	1		With all the benfits it provides to us as a whole without the need of medication it should be considered another pathway you can take before you dose.
8/1/2020 09:48:05	1		
8/1/2020 09:49:03	1		
8/1/2020 09:51:01	1		It's recognized as such in Canada and we should aspire to greater standards.
8/1/2020 09:56:09	1		Absolutely! It is very essential to the physiological an psychological well being of any individual as well as a pre card or post care of certain health conditions
8/1/2020 09:58:59	1		Absolutely!!! We do so much for people and help them with issues that they have in their bodies. I think is time that massage therapy has the recognition that needs to have!! We are very professionals in what we do and we deserve to have a place in the healthcare industry!!!!.
8/1/2020 10:06:26	1		I feel that as a LMT we are a vital asset to our clients. They seek us out for pain in their bodies and some while on the table also need a safe place to just release pent up tension it could be in the form of talking and for some it comes out in tears. I take my career very serious and love what I do. We are essential to our clients well being bgg g from pain relief to stress relief from everyday life. It is unfortunate that the medical community does not see it the same way.
8/1/2020 10:07:14	1		
8/1/2020 10:08:16	1		
8/1/2020 10:12:12	1		
8/1/2020 10:23:49	1		
8/1/2020 10:23:59	1		
8/1/2020 10:40:06	1		
8/1/2020 11:33:52	1		Please have it be covered by insurance as well. They do that already in Canada and many more people get a massage because of it.
8/1/2020 11:36:19	1		This should come as a prescription from a doctor. Either an orthopedic, chiropractor, physical therapist, occupational therapist, or naturopathic doctor. That way massage therapists have a diagnosis to work with and can bill insurances. It definitely help bring more people into massage therapy.
8/1/2020 11:54:54	1		
8/1/2020 12:23:56	1		
8/1/2020 12:39:20	1		
8/1/2020 13:32:12	1		

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8/1/2020 15:21:45	1		Yes.. I see the benefits of MT every day at work when my cancer survivors lose their ROM and regain some of the motion after a session. Esp. after radiation treatment.
8/1/2020 15:56:29	1		I am a NVMT who is referred by physicians, MD's, DO's, physical therapists, chiropractors,counselors and mental health therapists.
8/1/2020 16:49:56	1		
8/1/2020 16:54:09	1		I would support massage therapy as apart of the health profession because the art of massage truly works wonders on the body, connecting the souls and mind as one, bringing balance yet comfort to someoneâ€™s life through touch.
8/1/2020 16:59:36	1		
8/1/2020 17:51:02	1		
8/1/2020 18:47:51	1		
8/1/2020 21:03:45	1		We heal, hence HEALTH CARE.
8/2/2020 08:34:02	1		I believe massage is very benificial to the medical field. It holds so many healing properties. I would hope they consider massage as a wonderful provider in health care.
8/2/2020 10:14:07	1		Massage is the oldest form of health care and until we start recognizing health care as a whole our patients will never get full and total treatment to ensure all qualities of health are in pristine condition. Stop making it political and do what is best for the patients. Massage is medical. PERIOD...
8/2/2020 11:33:46	1		I'm also a PT and I support massage for health care
8/2/2020 15:55:17		1	Having been "treated" by various colleagues over the years, I can say with certainty that 99% of them do not present themselves as "health" professionals. Many have worked while they themselves had symptoms related to communicable illness.. All of them still expected to be tipped. Health professionals are not tipped. Spa personnel are usually tipped because they are underpaid as are others in the service industry.
8/2/2020 16:26:12			