

Dear Saint Paul City Council,

I am writing in response to your proposed amendment to Ordinance Chapter 412 and 414. I understand that you are trying to get out of licensing massage therapists by having new and returning therapists take the MBLEx. I don't believe that the MBLEx is right for CITY licensure. If a massage therapist got two job offers, one from Minneapolis and one from Saint Paul, that person is more likely to choose Minneapolis. I am afraid that this will eventually hurt Saint Paul businesses and might be forced to close down. I believe that there is a different solution.

My idea is to help create licensing examinations within the liability associations that all massage therapists are required to have. There are three liability associations that I'm sure you're aware of: ABMP (Association of Bodywork and Massage Professionals), AMTA (American Massage Therapy Association), and NAMT (National Association of Massage Therapy). All three of these associations have the information on where we went to school and there are multiple online continuing education courses available. In a way, these associations are already a part of the massage therapists' accountability. I already have a vision of different certifications of skill-level: entry level or basic, specialist, advanced, master, etc. This would be a "one-stop shop" for the city as these associations would have all the information you need.

I would love to work with you further on this if you are willing to consider this option.

Thank you for your consideration!

Sarah McMahill, ACMT (ABMP Certified Massage Therapist)