RE: LD 330

Dear Representative/Senator \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,

I am a constituent and a Maine licensed massage therapist. One problem is the massage profession is not recognized in our state as healthcare. Massage therapists want to be aligned with the healthcare field.

In an AMTA 2018 Consumer survey, 41% of clients sought therapeutic benefits as they relate to medical conditions, and another 26% sought relaxation and stress-relief, which also relates to pain, tight or sore muscles, anxiety, sleep disorders, etc. There are a number who seek treatment for simple relaxation. 88% of people survey view massage as essential to their overall wellbeing, and find great relief from pain. 80% of those surveyed see massage as a form of health care, not simply a beauty treatment, and 85% agree they sought massage for medical reasons.

Many doctors, chiropractors, surgeons, physical therapists, and others refer their patients to massage therapists for treatment, sometimes following up, or as a way to consistently receive health benefits. For all the above reasons and more, we believe we are healthcare practitioners.

Please vote yes on LD 330.

Sincerely,

Wendy Decker

AMTA Member