



To: Representative Sarah Copeland-Hanzas, Chair, House Government Operations
Committee
House Government Operations Committee Members
From: Vermont Chapter of the American Massage Therapy Association
Date: August 26, 2020
Re: S.220 – Regulation of Massage Therapists

Although the Vermont Chapter of the American Massage Therapy Association is in full support of licensure as the method of regulation in Vermont, we understand that the committee may not decide to go in that direction. If the committee decides that registration is the level of regulation it would like for massage therapists, we ask the committee to allow us to propose some minor amendments to S.220 that will afford greater protection to the public.

1. Add some amount of minimum education requirements to ensure professional competency and knowledge of contraindications - without it, anyone can still call themselves a massage therapist, bodyworker, etc., regardless of any training.
2. Perform background checks on registration applicants to ensure there is no criminal history that would adversely affect the ability of a massage therapist to safely work with the public.
3. Amend the definition of massage therapist to include practices that work with people who are clothed but have the potential to engage in harmful or inappropriate contact.

We know that the committee's desire is to move quickly on this bill, but we believe that, in the interest of public safety, these three issues should be considered more fully prior to a vote on the bill.