



"Gateway to the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area"

June 23, 2014

The Honorable Jimmy Gomez
Member, California State Assembly
State Capitol Building, Room 2176
Sacramento, CA 95814
FAX: (916) 319-2151

RE: **AB 1147 (Gomez). Massage Therapy. Letter of Support**

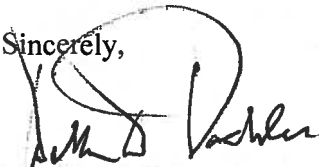
Dear Assembly Member Gomez:

On behalf of the City Council for the City of Agoura Hills, the City is pleased to express its support for AB 1147, legislation that would require massage professionals to pass a massage and bodywork competency assessment examination.

SB 731 (Oropeza, 2008) created the voluntary certification of massage professionals which is set to expire on January 1, 2015. The City supports AB 1147 as a potential vehicle to incorporate changes that would provide cities with the much needed tools to be able to address the proliferation of illicit massage establishments. AB 1147 allows local governments to enact ordinances that would require a certificate of massage establishment to obtain a license, permit or other authorization as long as that license, permit or other authorization is required of any other individual or business providing professional services. Having this authority returned will allow local governments to prevent businesses operating under the auspices of massage therapy from engaging in illicit activity and human trafficking.

There are countless examples of news stories concerning illicit activity amongst massage establishments (those have been provided to you in the June 4, 2014 correspondence from the League of California Cities) and their impacts among many California communities. The time for a change is now. We believe that this legislation is an important step in reducing the incidences of human trafficking and prostitution and returning much needed local control back to California counties and cities. For these reasons, the City of Agoura Hills expresses its support of AB 1147.

Sincerely,



William D. Koehler
Mayor

cc: City Council/City Manager
Assembly Member Richard Bloom, 50th District
Jeff Kiernan, League of California Cities