

CITY OF BURBANK



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

April 30, 2014

The Honorable Susan Bonilla
California State Assembly, 14th District
State Capitol Building, Room 4140
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 1147 (Bonilla, Gomez, Holden) - Massage Therapy Act of 2014.
(as Amended on April 23, 2014)
LETTER OF SUPPORT**

Dear Assembly Member Bonilla:

On behalf of the City of Burbank, I am writing to express my support for Assembly Bill (AB) 1147. The legislation rightly returns authority to local governments to establish reasonable standards for the regulation of massage establishments and also offers better protection for the public welfare.

Increasing the amount of training and requiring that the training be provided through accredited institutions will help eliminate some questionable schools. By imposing a requirement for all applicants to pass a background check, unscrupulous providers will be eliminated. Section 4604 outlines what has to be provided as part of the application. I would add a requirement for a physical address, not a post office or mail drop. The absence of a real address makes code enforcement especially difficult. The provision in 4604.1(c) of holding operators responsible for work performed on the premises is critical. I understand that under the current system operators who held the certificate simply disavowed knowledge of what was going on when law enforcement investigated and established a pattern of illegal activity. Section 4605 requires certificate renewal every two years. This will also help weed out the bad actors.

I understand that there are many fine massage establishments providing a service appreciated and valued by the community at large. We welcome those kinds of businesses in Burbank. At the same time, those who chose to operate outside the provisions of our Municipal Codes should not be able to easily evade enforcement as is often the case today.

Sincerely,



Emily Gabel-Luddy
Mayor, City of Burbank

Cc: Assembly Member Mike Gatto, 43rd District
Senator Carol Liu, 21st District
Jennifer Quan, League of California Cities