



Phone: 951-736-2370
Fax: 951-736-2493

OFFICE OF: Mayor

400 South Vicentia Avenue, Corona, California 92882
City Hall Online All The Time – <http://www.discovercorona.com>

July 28, 2014

The Honorable Susan Bonilla
California State Assembly
State Capitol Building, Room 4140
Sacramento, CA 95814
FAX: (916) 319-2114

RE: AB 1147 (Bonilla, Gomez, Holden). Massage Therapy Act of 2014. (as Amended on July 1, 2014) Notice of SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Bonilla:

The City of Corona is pleased to support AB 1147 which would completely revise and recast the law pertaining to massage therapy. We greatly appreciate the authors' assistance in crafting legislation that would fix the unintended consequences of SB 731 (2008) and give tools to local governments to address establishments that are masquerading as massage businesses, promoting human trafficking and prostitution.

As members of the League of California Cities, we are aware that the League has been very involved in this issue and has been asking for three issues to be addressed: 1) that the California Massage Therapy Council (CAMTC) be replaced with a board or commission, 2) that businesses that employ massage professionals be regulated and local governments be allowed to apply reasonable regulations to massage businesses, and 3) local governments be authorized to recoup their costs of protecting the public. We believe AB 1147 addresses all of the concerns raised by the League and as such we fully support AB 1147.

Most importantly, the bill returns land use control back to locals by authorizing cities and counties to adopt and enforce any local ordinance governing zoning, business licensing, or reasonable health and safety requirements for massage establishments. While AB 1147 does not replace CAMTC with a board or commission, it does reconstitute the CAMTC's board and adds a position for a police chief as well as a city attorney.

Finally, the bill explicitly states that cities and counties shall not be prohibited from levying a business license tax and removes language previously in SB 731 which prohibited cities and counties from requiring a certificate holder to obtain any other license, permit, or other authorization.

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Thank you for your consideration of this letter of support for AB 1147.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karen Spiegel".

Karen Spiegel
Mayor

cc: Chair and Members, Senate Appropriations Committee, FAX: (916) 319-2181
Kirstin Kolpitcke, League of California Cities, FAX: (916) 658-8240
Erin Sasse, Regional Public Affairs Manager, League of California Cities