

MAYOR:
POLLY LOW

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May 14, 2013

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

RE: AB 1147 (Gomez). Massage therapy.
(as Amended on April 15, 2013)
Notice of Oppose, Unless Amended

Dear Assembly Member Gomez:

The City of Rosemead has taken a position of oppose, unless amended on AB 1147, which seeks to address issues surrounding legislation passed in 2008 (SB 731) relating to massage establishments.

One of the unintended consequences of SB 731 is that massage establishments have fewer regulations than EVERY other business. SB 731 changed the ability of local governments to regulate the massage industry because it prohibits local governments from regulating or enacting ordinances for a business that employs certified massage therapists unless the requirements are "no different than the requirements that are uniformly applied to all other individuals and businesses providing professional services."

Cities are seeking to strike a balance with the California Massage Therapy Council concerning our ability to regulate these establishments, but have yet to be able to reach a compromise. We appreciate Assembly Member Gomez for carrying this issue and hope that the Legislature urges the Council to resolve our city's concerns.

The City of Rosemead is only 5.5 square miles with ten massage establishments. Prior to the passage of SB 731, the City of Rosemead had an extensive licensing procedure including background checks and regular inspections by public safety. Under the current regulations, the City no longer has the authority to take aggressive action against the owners and management of establishments that break the law, as we are limited to revoking the certificate of one employee at a time for violations.

For these reasons, the City of Rosemead has an oppose, unless amended position on AB 1147.

Sincerely,

Polly Low
Mayor

cc: Senator Ed Hernandez; 24th Senate District; FAX (916)445-0485
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