



CITY OF SIMI VALLEY

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May 9, 2014

The Honorable Ted Lieu, Chair
Senate Business, Professions, and Economic Development Committee
State Capitol Building, Room 4061
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1147 (Bonilla) Massage Therapy - Notice of Support

Dear Chair Lieu:

The City Simi Valley is in support of AB 1147, the Massage Therapy Act of 2014, in light of its recent amendments which seek to address issues surrounding legislation passed in 2008 (SB 731) relating to massage establishments. The amended legislation incorporates the amendments the City of Simi Valley requested related to local land use authority, the ability to regulate massage establishments like other professional businesses, CMTC membership, and the certification of establishment managers.

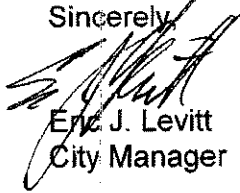
The Massage Therapy Act of 2014 would remove the broad restrictions on local governments' land use authority that currently exist, providing cities the ability to more effectively zone and regulate massage establishments, as well as shut them down when illegal activity is taking place or there is a threat to health and safety. Combined with restored local government fee authority, higher professional standards, and tougher requirements for certified establishments, this legislation provides a comprehensive solution that is greatly needed.

The return of local control will authorize the City of Simi Valley to amend our ordinance related to massage establishment to require certificated massage professionals and registered massage establishments to comply with reasonable health and safety requirements. The Act also explicitly reiterates the power of local governments to require certification as a precondition to practice massage in the jurisdiction. If a massage establishment is in violation of its terms of registration with the CMTC, the CMTC or local government would have the authority to revoke or void the terms of the registration.

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This legislation is the compromise that cities have been seeking with the California Massage Therapy Council with regard to cities' ability to regulate these establishments. For these reasons, the City of Simi Valley is pleased to support AB 1147, as amended. For further information regarding the City's position on this issue, please contact James Purtee, Assistant City Manager/Government Affairs, at (805) 583-6701.

Sincerely,



Eric J. Levitt
City Manager

cc: City Council
City Attorney
Assistant City Manager, Government Affairs
Senate Business Professions and Economic Development Committee
Senator Fran Pavley
Assembly Member Scott Wilk
Assembly Member Susan Bonilla
Gonsalves and Son
League of California Cities