



Assembly Member Susan Bonilla  
State Capitol Building, Room 4140  
Sacramento, CA 95814

May 19, 2014

**RE: Notice of Support: AB 1147 (Bonilla, Gomez, Holden)**

Dear Assembly Member Bonilla,

The City of Ventura supports your AB 1147, which would completely revise and recast the law pertaining to massage therapy, including returning land use control back to the cities.

AB 1147 allows local governments to enact ordinances that would require a certificate of occupancy for a 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 prostitution and human trafficking.

The City of Ventura has close to 70 massage establishments, compared to 28 in 2006-2007 which is when our city began to notice a spike in these establishments. Many of these establishments are concentrated in our Downtown and Midtown, and near our schools. Negative effects associated with these establishments put a strain on city resources and impact the quality of life in our community.

For these reasons, the City of Ventura supports AB 1147.

Sincerely,  
**Cheryl Heitmann**

Mayor  
City of Ventura

CC: Assembly Member Jimmy Gomez, Assembly Member Chris Holden, Kirstin Kolpitke,  
League of California Cities