



**VENTURA COUNCIL
OF GOVERNMENTS**

970 Paseo Santa Cruz, Thousand Oaks, CA 91320
www.venturacog.org

May 16, 2014

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

RE: SUPPORT FOR AB 1147 (Bonilla, Gomez, Holden) Massage Therapy Act of 2014

Dear Assemblymember Bonilla:

The Ventura Council of Governments (VCOG), supports your AB 1147, which would revise and recast the law pertaining to massage therapy, including returning land use control to local government.

AB 1147 allows local governments to enact ordinances that would require a certificated 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.

Ventura County cities have seen firsthand the negative consequences of current law, among them an overconcentration of massage establishments which are changing the character and public perception of our commercial centers, and increased allocation of law enforcement toward inspecting and enforcing laws in these establishments. In Thousand Oaks, 47 massage establishments operate within a four mile stretch of the Thousand Oaks Boulevard Business Improvement District; the number of massage establishments in Simi Valley has more than doubled in the past five years; and the City of Ventura has experienced increased code violations, arrests and legal prosecutions involving these businesses.

To address these concerns, the Ventura Council of Governments supports AB 1147 and thanks you for your work on this important issue. If VCOG can provide further assistance, please have your staff contact Laura Behjan, VCOG Executive Director, at (805) 320-5482 or vcoglb@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

Jan McDonald, Chair
Ventura Council of Governments

cc: Ventura County Legislative Delegation
VCOG Board of Directors
League of California Cities

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