



CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD

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May 5, 2014

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

Dear Assembly Member Bonilla:

I am writing you to express my support of 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 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 West Hollywood Municipal Code contains requirements for licensure of massage technicians, and continues to support further regulation that ensures safety and compliance to the law within this industry. While well intentioned, Senate Bill 731 created a statewide certification process that allowed for an exponential increase in the number of massage establishments in California, many of whom advertise on illicit websites. There are over 300 establishments in or near West Hollywood alone. AB 1147 would place authority of certification back in the hands of the communities in which these establishments reside.

For these reasons, AB 1147 is consistent with our current legislative priorities.

Sincerely,

John Heilman
Mayor Pro Tempore
City of West Hollywood

CC: State Senator Ted Lieu
Assembly Member Richard Bloom
Regional Director Dr. Willie Brien, League of California Cities
Meg Desmond, League of California Cities

