



Associated Bodywork & Massage Professionals

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TO: Assemblymembers Patricia Fahy, Rodneyse Bichotte Hermelyn, Kenny Burgos, Marianne Buttenschon, Monique Chandler-Waterman, Sarah Clark, Chris Eachus, Harvey Epstein, Michael J. Fitzpatrick, Ed Flood, Phara Souffrant Forrest, Jarett Gandolfo, Scott Gray, Alicia Hyndman, Latoya Joyner, Donna A. Lupardo, John T. McDonald III, Karen McMahon, Brian D. Miller, Michael Reilly, Rebecca A. Seawright, Jo Anne Simon, Doug Smith, Robert Smullen, Al Stirpe, and Monica P. Wallace

RE: ABMP Comments on Assembly Bill 8173

POSITION: ABMP Supports AB 8173

VIA EMAIL

Associated Bodywork & Massage Professionals (ABMP) provides professional liability insurance, business resources, professional publications, and legislative and regulatory advocacy for more than 80,000 members nationwide, with almost 2,500 members in New York.

ABMP is in support of [Assembly Bill 8173](#) (AB 8173) regarding the Interstate Massage Compact (Compact). ABMP worked with the Council of State Governments and the Department of Defense to draft this language and believes AB 8173 is ultimately a benefit to massage therapists, as it will allow licensed practitioners to gain employment more easily and faster in other compact states.

The Compact is a vastly superior alternative to onerous licensure-by-endorsement processes. It will be advantageous to military families moving around the country, reduce the financial burdens of massage therapists requiring and paying for multiple state licenses, and may affect New York's bottom line with potential increased taxable income. AB 8173 will also assist the NYS Education Department—Office of the Professions by enhancing public safety, reducing application processing time, and expanding cooperation among state regulatory boards.

The Compact bill language was carefully drafted to ensure that licensed massage therapists will be properly educated and vetted. Once a minimum of seven states passes the bill and the Interstate Massage Compact Commission drafts rules, massage therapists in participating states will be able to obtain a multistate license so long as they have 625 hours of education and no encumbrances against their license in their home state. Participating states will require continuing education for license renewal, criminal background checks, and a disciplinary process.

ABMP fully supports the Compact's efforts to increase the mobility of lawfully practicing massage therapists in compact-participating states and encourages you to vote yes on AB 8173.

Please contact me at lance@abmp.com if you have comments or questions.

Sincerely,

Lance Hostetter, Government Relations Director
Associated Bodywork & Massage Professionals