



Associated Bodywork & Massage Professionals

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December 18, 2023

TO: Representatives Sortwell, Gustafson, Allen, Goeben, Macco, Melotik, Omokunde, Sinicki, and Palmeri

CC: Senators Cabral-Guevara, Ballweg, Carpenter, and Spreitzer, and Representatives Tittl, Brandtjen, Dittrich, Jacobson, Melotik, Moses, O'Connor, Rozar, Schmidt, Spiros, and Wichgers

RE: ABMP Comments on Assembly Bill 716

POSITION: Support

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.

ABMP is in support of Assembly Bill 716 (AB 716) 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 716 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 financial burdens of massage therapists requiring and paying for multiple state licenses, and may affect Wisconsin's bottom line with potential increased taxable income. AB 716 will also assist the Department of Safety and Professional Services 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 716.

Please contact me at [lance@abmp.com](mailto:lance@abmp.com) if you have comments or questions.

Sincerely,

Lance Hostetter, Government Relations Director  
Associated Bodywork & Massage Professionals