

Committee on Health and Human Services

Testimony opposing Bill HB2564

By Cara Walker- Spurney on February 7, 2012

Subject: My testimony presented in OPPOSITION to House Bill No. HB2564 concerning Licensing of Massage Therapists in Kansas.

Mrs. Chairperson and members of the Committee of Health and Human Services, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to speak to you in opposition to Bill No. HB 2564 – The Massage Therapist Licensure Act.

My name is Cara Walker-Spurney; I have been a client of massage services for over 20 years. I agree and understand the requirement for all practicing Therapists to have some type of license in the State of Kansas. I do not agree with the educational requirements stated in House Bill No. 2564 or at least my perception of the required 500 in-classroom hours. I have been going to the same Massage Therapist for over 20 years, this person is trained but not trained based upon the requirements listed in the House Bill No. 2564. This person has taken time to learn not only about massage but has expanded her knowledge to learn about natural healing for the entire body. I have been too many, many other massage therapists some of them local some of them national and some international. It is not all about the hours of training; it is the level of interest, years of experience and involvement in the field of Massage Therapy.

As a long time massage client, I would ask you to please re-consider the training requirements. There needs to be some type of cooperative effort for those that have training and have many years of experience. The Licensing requirements should be based upon experience and years of service. Many of the current therapists have spent years establishing a clientele, it would be very difficult and financially impacting to stop practicing and return to school. It would be very difficult to maintain a clientele while going to school therefore risking lose of clients. We need to do what we can to prevent future unemployment for the group of Massage Therapists that have clientele, provide a good service and have held themselves to a high standard even though there was not a requirement.

How does the state plan to accommodate and fund the required training? How do you plan to observe and monitor Licensed Massage Therapists in Kansas? What are the plans for additional training going forward and how will this training be funded?

I believe Bill No. 2564 has been written very open ended, leaving many questions unanswered. I sincerely appreciate your consideration for a more cooperative effort to support those Massage Therapists that are providing state of the art facilities, holding themselves to very high standards and professionalism. There are many “professionally educated” massage therapists that are not operating within the same standards as those who were trained in this field. Thank You!

