



Kansas  
Chiropractic  
Association

TESTIMONY

Before the House Committee on Health and Human Services

By John Kiefhaber, KCA Government Affairs

February 12, 2013

The members of the Kansas Chiropractic Association, representing doctors of chiropractic throughout the state, appreciate the opportunity to present IN SUPPORT of HB 2187, “AN ACT enacting the massage therapist licensure act; ...”

Doctors of chiropractic across the State of Kansas work with and employ massage therapists in their practices. We understand and support the need for regulation of the practice of massage therapy; however, we do have some concerns with the language used in this bill and we ask the committee to amend the bill as follows:

1. The term “soft tissues” on page 1, line 25 is vague and should be defined more tightly to “***skin, muscle, tendons, and the lymphatic system.***” Soft tissue includes all organs of the body including stomach, intestine, spleen, and liver and could even be interpreted as allowing massage therapists to attempt to manually turn a breech fetus.
2. Next, on page 1, line 32 massage therapy is defined as including “passive and active stretching”; however, page 2, line 5 states that massage therapy does not include “therapeutic exercise.” Therapeutic exercise by definition includes passive and active stretching.
3. Finally, after line 9 on page 2, add: ***(G) treatment of any disease or condition without referral from a licensed physician, a licensed podiatrist, a licensed physician assistant or a licensed advanced practice registered nurse working pursuant to the order or direction of a licensed physician, a licensed chiropractor, or a licensed dentist.***

With these amendments the Kansas Chiropractic Association would support passage of HB 2187 out of committee. Thank you.