



## NATIONAL HEALTH FREEDOM ACTION

### Urge Legislators to Oppose Minnesota HF 644, Registration of Massage and Bodywork Therapists

**We need your support now!** Tomorrow, Thursday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, HF 644 will be heard in the House Civil Law and Data Practices Committee at 8:15am in Room 10 of the State Office Building. Please [Take Action Here](#) to send a message to your personal Representative and to the Members of the House Civil Law and Data Practices Committee asking them to Oppose Minnesota HF 644 (companion bill SF 1310), Registering Massage and Body workers. [Take Action Here](#).

#### Reasons to Oppose HF 644:

- 1. The bill treats registered practitioners and unregistered 146A practitioners differently!** The bill contains language blocking cities from regulating and licensing state registered practitioners but the bill does not block municipalities from regulating MN146A practitioners. Therefore, this could feasibly lead to cities depending on the new state registration to regulate their practitioners and then only allowing state registered practitioners to work in their municipalities; turning a voluntary state credential into a de facto mandatory credential in those cities. This would jeopardize the practices of thousands of small business healing practitioners who are willing to abide by all municipal laws but have no intent on going to special schools or paying the annual fees for the registration and who are currently working under MN146A.
- 2. The bills would not eliminate the “current patchwork system” as advocates claim** that HF 644/SF 1310 would because the bill language specifically states that it does not limit each municipality from “requiring a massage business establishment to obtain a business license or permit in order to transact business in the jurisdiction regardless of whether the massage business establishment is operated by a registered or unregistered massage and bodywork therapist;”. *See* Section 14, Subd. 2, at (1).
- 3. This registration would create a slippery slope toward further, heightened regulation** that is unwarranted and unnecessary. Advocates claim that these bills are for the narrow purpose of acquiring exclusive use of the title “registered massage and bodywork therapist” for the special group of people with a special type of education BUT they have also stated that their long-term wish is for exclusive licensure of all massage and bodywork therapists, and that the bills were made smaller because of opposition to the expansive licensing mandates.
- 4. There is no constitutional basis to register massage and bodywork therapists in Minnesota** under MN’s law listing the criteria for regulating professions, Minn. Stat. 214. These bills would begin to take practices that are currently practiced freely under MN146A and put them into the hands of the government to regulate unnecessarily, creating a new tier of regulation and competition and getting government to make special endorsements of special types of education. Governments do not have a constitutional right to regulate professions that are not causing harm. There is no need for government intervention to dole out exclusive titles for exclusive types of education unless there is an imminent risk of harm without it.
- 5. Minnesota already has the well-known law, MN146A,** providing practitioner guidelines and ensuring that consumers have safe access to all unlicensed complementary and alternative health care practitioners including all types of massage therapists and bodyworkers.

So massage therapists and body workers in Minnesota already have all the freedom to practice that they need, and the further regulation of state registration is unnecessary and amounts to a shrinkage of that freedom, not an enhancement of it!

**[Take Action Here.](#) [Click Here](#) for Status of, and to Read, HF 466. Thank You!**



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