Oregon
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Testimony to Senate Committee on Business and Transportation

SB 298-3 – Increases Certified Class Hours for Licensure of Massage Therapists

To: Chair Beyer Vice-Chair Girod Senator Monroe Senator Riley
Senator Thomsen

Chair Beyer and members of the Senate Committee on Business and Transportation. For the record I am Kathy Calise, Board Member and Past Chair of the Oregon Board of Massage Therapists. I am here today to express support of SB 298-3.

SB 298-3 is the culmination of a national task force of the Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards. This task force met from 2012 through 2014. The goal of this task force was to define knowledge and the skills components of entry-level education and recommend a minimum number of hours needed to prepare massage school graduates for safe and competent practice in the massage profession. The results of the two year work by the taskforce was The Core – Entry-Level Analysis Project Report (ELAP) which provides guidance to State Massage Therapy Boards in an effort to offer a national standard for training of massage therapists and portability of massage licenses.

Oregon Board of Massage Therapists currently requires 500 hours of certified class hours and this bill would increase the hours to 625. Currently, most all of the 15 Oregon Massage School programs exceed the 500 hours and only 3 schools would need to increase their curriculum.

The second component would statutorily exempt the student clinics at colleges and universities from obtaining a facilities permit. This was an oversight from last session when the Massage Facility Permit bill was passed we only exempted private career schools.

I encourage your support and passage of SB 298.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Calise
Board Member/Past Chair