**RE: LD 330**

Dear Representative/Senator \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,

I am a constituent of yours and a LMT practicing in Bath.

**The problem:** Even though massage therapy is licensed, the word “massage” is currently used legally by non-trained individuals. This affects consumers who don’t know these individuals are not trained. Massage is safe for the healthy person, unquestionably. But safety is the problem for certain health conditions being contraindicated for massage.

**Why Maine LMTs want the word “massage” protected:** Massage therapy has a significant impact on a person’s health and well-being. The public has a right to expect that a massage therapist has the qualifications needed to practice effectively and safely.  Legal recognition of the practice of massage therapy and clearly-stated requirements to practice are essential to promote the profession and protect the health, safety and welfare of the general public.

**Why Massage training is important:** Standards for education and training can assist the consumer to know whether a massage therapist has adequate preparation to practice. AMTA recommends a minimum of 500 hours of supervised, in-class initial massage therapy training, which must include the study of anatomy and physiology, the theory and practice of massage therapy, and elective subjects. The law requires LMTs to have the basic 500 hours of training in Maine.

**Why additional wording is necessary:** More massage wording definitions are needed to tighten up the law so only trained practitioners practice in Maine. We also are considered “healthcare practitioners” and want that added into the law.

**Request:** I would like you to vote yes on bill # 330.

Sincerely,

Wendy Decker LMT

AMTA member