



Kansas
Chiropractic
Association

TESTIMONY

Before the House Health and Human Services Committee

February 8, 2012

By John L. Kiefhaber, Executive Director

Madam Chair and Members of the Committee:

Doctors of chiropractic throughout the state wish to inform the Committee of their **OPPOSITION** to the passage of HB 2564, “AN ACT enacting the massage therapist licensure act; ...”

While we agree that massage therapists should be regulated, the bill as drafted provides for a too-broad scope of practice and uses ambiguous language.

- Health promotion is not a defined term and can mean many things. This could be interpreted and allowing massage therapists to offer ergonomic advice, nutrition and diet counseling, and lifestyle modifications, all of which are beyond their training.
- Soft tissues of the body include much more than just the skin and muscles. All of the organs of the body are included in the soft tissue including the liver, pancreas, stomach... This could be interpreted to allow massage therapists to perform techniques to manually turn a breech baby.
- Passive and active stretching is considered to be therapeutic exercise by the Current Procedural Terminology definitions and is therefore both allowed and prohibited by this bill.
- With the low application and license fees provided for in this bill the Kansas Board of Healing Arts will end up paying for the set-up and regulation of the practice of massage therapy as described in this bill.
- Registration with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment or the Kansas Board of Cosmetology with a scope of practice restricted to “the use of effleurage, petrissage, tapotement, and friction to the skin and muscle tissues” may be more appropriate.

We would request the Committee not report this bill out for passage in this form.

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