



August 7, 2014

To: Senator Kevin de Leon, Chair
The California Senate Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 5108
Sacramento, CA 95814

Via: maureen.ortiz@sen.ca.gov
FAX 916-327-8817

Re: AB 1147 (Bonilla, Gomez, Holden) Massage Therapy Act of 2014 Notice of Support

Dear Senator de Leon,

I am writing on behalf of WISPPA, a women's political advocacy group that strongly supports AB1147, which would completely revise and recast the law pertaining to massage therapy, including returning land use control back to the cities.

You are our State Senator and I am sure you are aware of how this problem has so negatively impacted the cities and constituents in our area. Our women's organization has been working with our legislators and the California League of Cities to correct the problems created by SB731 for over 3 years. We have not only worked on behalf of our City, South Pasadena, which went from 7 massage parlors to 19 with at least 6 known to engage in prostitution, but also for the women whom have been forced into a life of prostitution right on our main streets throughout our state.

SB 731 was unprecedented in that it took cities rights away to regulate a business use. All other uses are subject to local regulations and land use laws, so we see no justifiable reason that massage parlors were allowed to receive such an exceptional exemption.

AB1147 will allow cities to have their rights back to regulate massage parlors as they do other uses. It will allow local governments to enact ordinances that would require massage establishments to obtain a license, permit or other authorization. Having this authority returned will allow local governments to shut down houses of prostitution masquerading as legitimate massage businesses. Shutting down the illicit businesses will also serve to help the legitimate massage industry which has been tarnished by the terrible consequences of the existing law.

For these reasons, WISPPA (Women Involved in South Pasadena Political Action) strongly supports AB 1147.

Sincerely

Lisa Pendleton, Secretary
Women Involved In South Pasadena Political Action
www.wisppa.org

cc: The Senate Appropriations Committee Members via Senator de Leon's office