

***When it comes to Promoting Massage Licensing (AB 1388),
Participation in a Multi-Organization Coalition Sounds
Pretty Good***

***It's not so Impressive, When it's Clear that the Coalition Being
Discussed Hasn't Existed for Almost Four Years.***

***Do we really Want a Licensing Act that's Justified by
such Wishful Thinking?***

Questions 5 and 6 of the Senate Business and Professions Committee's Sunrise Questionnaire address identification of the applicant group and the **representativity of the applicant group** within the profession. The Sunrise Questionnaire Response (SQR) submitted by the AMTA-CA refers several times to the California Coalition on Somatic Practices (CCSP) and to participation of organizations therein. ¹ At best, such statements are misleading.

The last physical meeting of the CCSP was in February 2000. Following this meeting, the existence of the CCSP was relegated to being an email list (under Yahoo Groups) for discussion of issues of regulation. ² In March 2000, a release on status and plans for CCSP noted this status and that: "I [Beverly May] frequently get calls or e-mails from somatic practitioners, mostly massage therapists, asking what we are doing about getting state licensing in California. CCSP has taken a position against state regulation at this time (discussed in our paper 'Why now is not the time to go to Sacramento', which can be found on our web-site). We still support this position for now."

At the time that a licensing effort was initiated by AMTA-CA, there was no consensus for this action among those participating on the remaining email list. The lack of initial consensus and of pre-agreed bill contents and goals has been evident throughout the history of AB 1388.

Reference to CCSP as an existing body and coalition of multiple organizations supporting the AMTA-CA instigated licensing is spurious and misleading. Building the basis for regulation of the massage profession upon this kind of sand is an unsound foundation and a bad idea.

Please oppose regulation based on misinformation. Please oppose AB 1388.

¹ AMTA-CA, 2003: *Sunrise Survey for AB 1388 (Kehoe) Massage Therapy Regulation Prepared by American Massage Therapy Association*. <http://www.camassageschools.org/library/sunrise_questionnaire_body.pdf>

² May, Beverly, 20 March 2000: *CCSP Status and Plans, March 2000*. <<http://www.somatic.com/ccsp/letter0003.html>>