



***** FLOOR ALERT *****

VOTE NO ON ASSEMBLY BILL 1822 (Swanson)

- AB 1822 was originally positioned as addressing human trafficking, but in reality was an attempt to eviscerate SB 731, which provided for voluntary statewide certification of massage therapists.
- SB 731 actually is working well as implemented by the California Massage Therapy Council (CAMTC): 11,500 massage providers have been certified even while several thousand others previously approved by cities have not received certification because of more rigorous CAMTC education and criminal background check standards.
- CAMTC and the major massage professional organizations worked with the author and sponsor of AB 1822 to transform it into a general clean-up bill, including further mutually agreed upon tightening of standards for owners of massage establishments.
- The sponsor backtracked last week on commitments accepted during a Senate BP&ED hearing, stripping out all the constructive clean-up language, leaving only provisions for two more CAMTC board seats for specified law enforcement organizations.
- The League of California Cities and California State Association of Counties already have CAMTC board seats; the League's initial appointee, a retired LA Vice officer provided instrumental help in developing astute CAMTC applicant screening procedures.
- This bill would add a seat for a designated organization, the California Police Chiefs Association, that seeks to dramatically weaken CAMTC.
- California professions traditionally self-regulate. The imposition of law enforcement seats onto a health profession board would establish a dangerous precedent that could easily spread to boards regulating other professions.
- The responsibility of the CAMTC is to regulate the massage therapy profession, not act as vice cops – to aid law enforcement, not act as law enforcement.

At this point, it makes better sense to defer comprehensive clean-up legislation for SB 731 to the 2011 session.

Associated Bodywork & Massage Professionals opposes AB 1822.