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California POLICE CHIEFS Association Inc.

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August 27, 2010

Honorable Rod Wright
Member of the Senate
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Wright:

I want to thank you for presenting Assembly Member Swanson's AB 1822 on the Senate floor. The addition of two law enforcement representatives to the California Massage Therapy Council (a self-appointed board) is extremely important to the California Police Chiefs Association, the entirety of the law enforcement community, as well as anti-human trafficking and community activists.

If there ever was a doubt about the need for this bill, it was answered yesterday when the CAMTC sent our agency, the San Mateo Police Department, a list of 26 persons to whom they had either granted a massage certificate or to whom they intended to grant such a certificate. Included among that list were persons with arrests for prostitution, perjury involving their massage businesses, persons with convictions that had been plea-bargained from prostitution arrests, persons with business relationships with massage parlors that closed after having been notified by the District Attorney of possible action under the Red Light Abatement Act, as well as a male applicant with narcotic and domestic violence offenses — patterns often associated with pimping and pandering.

I am convinced that had there been two members of law enforcement on the CAMTC that many of these persons would have been successfully prevented from being recommended for issuance of a statewide certificate. The unhappy reality is that prostitution and human trafficking interests are continually attempting to invade the massage profession. The presence of two law enforcement professionals on the CAMTC is an important tool in the prevention of that invasion.

Yours in Service,

Susan E. Manheimer
President

CC: Honorable Sandre Swanson

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