

Speech for SB 19-089 - Exempt Colorado Department of Higher Education Regulation Professional Organization Member Education.

Chairman Foote, members of the committee, thank you for allowing me to speak on behalf of supporting SB 19-089- Exempt CO Dept of Higher Education Regulation Professional Organization Member Education.

I support this bill for several reasons. First this bill helps bring cont. education for massage therapy to Pueblo and to help increase awareness and a want for continuing ed. I'm board certified which means that I must complete 12 hours of cont. ed a year. These classes are approved by the National Certification Board of Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork, which is the governing body for cont. education for massage therapists.

These classes have greatly improved my ability to help clients that need relief from chronic pain, helping clients recovering from injuries, helping with recovery time from surgery, and even helping clients cope with conditions like PTSD.

After taking a course on the effects of PTSD on the body, I was able to convince a war memorial hospital to allow me to volunteer there, and they later gave me a contract. This resulted in my ability to continue helping current military personal and our veterans. In the few years that I was there they sometimes utilized me being a male therapist as "forced exposure" for female patients of the hospital who suffered from sexual assault related PTSD while in the military.

One such client I had the honor of working with self-committed herself to the hospital as she wouldn't let her loved ones even hug her for two years because of the trauma she experienced while serving over-seas. At the end of her treatment she came up to me and gave me a hug. To be able to help someone overcome a fear like that was a great indication that the training I had taken had helped this person.

Another client I got to help had been dependent on opioids for 20 years to help manage pain from a botched surgery. In 12 months I have been part of a team working with this person to help get him off these medications. I'm proud to say today he is opioid free, and finding new ways to manage his pain, like monthly massages.

My great experiences in cont ed. lead me to want to bring teachers to Pueblo. For 3 years, I was able to accomplish this goal by gaining enough interest for these classes to make it worth it for the teachers to come to Pueblo, instead of us having to travel to Denver, or even out of State. This cuts down on travel costs ranging from flights, car rentals, extra time off work for travel, among other expenses, like food.

If this exemption doesn't pass, I would have to spend \$5,000 to get the location of the classes approved as a school through DPOS and register every class thereafter to the tune of \$500 causing the classes to cost so much it wouldn't be reasonable for anyone to take the class, giving bigger institutions in CO a monopoly on continuing education and making it near impossible for the "little guy" to try to make it with those fees.

Please consider passing SB 19-089 so we can continue to offer educators from around the Country to come to CO and to have affordable quality cont education from those who can teach it. This is great for

our massage therapists, and for Colorado's economy, as offering these types of classes brings more therapists from out of State here, more students from out of state here, instead of us having to give our money to other States. Thank you for your time Chairman Foote, and members of this committee for allowing me time to speak in favor of this bill.