

February 4th, 2019

Chairman Foote and Members of the Committee, thank you for taking the time to hear my testimony. My name is Mary Ann Foster and I live at 10903 Jotipa Drive in Longmont, Colorado. Here is why I support Senate Bill 19-089.

1. First, I understand the necessity of oversight from the Department of Professional and Occupational Studies (DPOS). I came to Colorado in 1981 to attend massage school and have completed three vocational trainings regulated by DPOS, which guaranteed my education. Since 1982, I have been a licensed massage therapist in Colorado.
2. From 1990 to 1998, I taught a continuing education (CE) course to massage therapists as an independent provider. This ended in 1998, when I received a letter from the DPOS telling me to cease and desist because they did not approve my course nor did it fall under one of their exemptions. I closed my course and have not offered CE courses in Colorado for the last 20 years, which has been a huge professional and financial loss for me.
3. In 1988 I became certified by the DPOS as vocational instructor and have since taught at five different massage schools. I have also ^{taught} anatomy and kinesiology at the Naropa Institute, the Front Range Community College, and recently as a guest teacher at Metro State. I've written two textbooks in our field, *Somatic Patterning* and *Therapeutic Kinesiology* and I've written 40 articles for our association publication, the "Massage and Bodywork Magazine." I have a national reputation as a massage educator, am approved as a CE provider by the National Certification Board for Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork (NCBTMB), have taught CE courses in a handful of other states, and get regular requests to teach continuing education. The irony of my situation is that I can offer courses in any state but my own.
4. I've long searched for a way to offer CE courses here, but to no avail. I've met with many massage school administrators, and even went through the DPOS paperwork to open a school, but decided against it because I just want to teach continuing education, not run an entire school. My husband and I often discuss moving to another state, but remain because we are both self-employed and well established here professionally.

In closing, I urge you to support this bill. If you do, we all win. I and many other providers can expand our businesses here, and Colorado can regain a competitive advantage in massage education. Again, thank you for your time and consideration.

Mary Ann Foster