

**Senate Education**

**04/17/2024 01:30 PM**

**SB24-201 Increase Massage Therapy Education Program Hours**

**Typed Text of Testimony Submitted**

<b>Name, Position, Representing</b>	<b>Typed Text of Testimony</b>
<p>James Specker For American Massage Therapy Association</p>	<p>Dear Senators, Michaelson Jenet, Smallwood, Lindsay, and Pugliese:</p> <p>I am writing on behalf of the American Massage Therapy Association (AMTA) concerning Colorado Senate Bill 201. AMTA is the largest non-profit, professional association serving massage therapists, massage students, and massage schools. Established in 1943, AMTA works to advance the profession through ethics and standards, the promotion of fair and consistent licensing of massage therapists in all states, and public education on massage therapy's health benefits. We represent more than 104,000 members nationwide, and 1,848 in Colorado. As a representative of the massage therapy community, we believe that this bill will greatly benefit both practitioners and clients in Colorado.</p> <p>The proposed amendment which replaces the current requirement of " five hundred (500) hours or more" with " six hundred fifty (650) hours," is a positive step towards ensuring the highest standards of education and training for massage therapists in Colorado. By raising the minimum required hours, this bill will enhance the professionalism and competency of practitioners, ultimately leading to improved client outcomes and safety.</p> <p>Massage therapy is a rapidly growing profession, and Colorado must keep up with evolving standards and best practices. The American Massage Therapy Association fully supports the efforts to update and strengthen the existing regulations through Senate Bill 201.</p> <p>Thank you for your attention to this matter. I urge you to consider the importance of this bill and to support its passage. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or require further information.</p>

	<p>James E. Specker Senior Director, Industry &amp; Government Relations American Massage Therapy Association jspecker@amtamassage.org</p>
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