May 28, 2014

The Honorable Susan Bonilla  
Member, California State Assembly  
State Capitol Building, Room 4140  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Via FAX: (916) 319-2114

RE:  AB 1147 (Bonilla, Gomez, Holden) Massage Therapy Act of 2014 (as amended on April 23, 2014)

NOTICE OF SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Bonilla:

The City of Torrance strongly supports your AB 1147, which would completely revise and recast the law pertaining to massage therapy.

While we credit the California Massage Therapy Council’s (CAMTC) intent to establish professional standards for massage therapists and massage businesses, the passage of SB 731 (2008) has allowed illicit and criminal activity to proliferate under the guise of massage therapy. The Torrance Police Department has had to run numerous undercover sting operations to deal with growing problems of prostitution and human trafficking (see Daily Breeze article dated May 8, 2014, attached). There are huge costs not only in police resources and budget, but also in quality of life for our business community and area residents. This issue receives considerable media coverage and the public’s awareness and concern are clear.

As amended, AB 1147 will return land use control to local governments. It will authorize cities to adopt ordinances that require massage establishments to comply with reasonable health and safety requirements and hours of operation. Although it does not replace CAMTC with a public board or commission, an action we would fully endorse, it does reconstitute CAMTC’s board, providing some measure of transparency and accountability.
The City of Torrance supports AB 1147 and appreciates the authors' ongoing efforts to repair the unintended consequences of SB 731.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Frank Scotto
Mayor
City of Torrance

Attachment: Daily Breeze article

cc: Senator Ted Lieu
    Assembly Member Al Muratsuchi
    Assembly Member Gomez
    Assembly Member Holden
    Chair and Members, Senate Business and Professions Committee
    Jeff Kiernan, Regional Public Affairs Manager
    Kirstin Kolpickete, League of California Cities