

*** FLOOR ALERT *** VOTE NO ON ASSEMBLY BILL 1822 (Swanson)

- AB 1822 was originally positioned as addressing human trafficking, but in reality was an attempt to eviscerate SB 731, which provided for voluntary statewide certification of massage therapists.
- SB 731 actually is working well as implemented by the California Massage Therapy Council (CAMTC): 11,500 massage providers have been certified even while several thousand others previously approved by cities have not received certification because of more rigorous CAMTC education and criminal background check standards.
- CAMTC and the major massage professional organizations worked with the author and sponsor of AB 1822 to transform it into a general clean-up bill, including further mutually agreed upon tightening of standards for owners of massage establishments.
- The sponsor backtracked last week on commitments accepted during a Senate BP&ED hearing, stripping out all the constructive clean-up language, leaving only provisions for two more CAMTC board seats for specified law enforcement organizations.
- The League of California Cities and California State Association of Counties already have CAMTC board seats; the League's initial appointee, a retired LA Vice officer provided instrumental help in developing astute CAMTC applicant screening procedures.
- This bill would add a seat for a designated organization, the California Police Chiefs Association, that seeks to dramatically weaken CAMTC.
- California professions traditionally self-regulate. The imposition of law enforcement seats
 onto a health profession board would establish a dangerous precedent that could easily
 spread to boards regulating other professions.
- The responsibility of the CAMTC is to regulate the massage therapy profession, not act as vice cops to aid law enforcement, not act as law enforcement.

At this point, it makes better sense to defer comprehensive clean-up legislation for SB 731 to the 2011 session.

Associated Bodywork & Massage Professionals opposes AB 1822.