

Exhibit No. 9Date 4-6-09Bill No. HB 662

Testimony Regarding HB662  
Public Health, Welfare and Safety Committee

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I have practiced Asian Healing Arts since 1998. I graduated from, teacher assisted, then became a member of the staff at Big Sky Somatic Institute in Helena. I am a nationally certified therapist and also nationally certified to teach continuing education credits by NCBTMB. I teach Shiatsu, Thai Massage and Qigong.

The techniques I use regularly in my practice are Shiatsu, Thai Massage and Tuina (Chinese Medical Massage). These forms of massage are literally thousands of years old and some of them incorporate stretches and range of movement techniques that I understand are being contested by Physical Therapy Profession for use in massage therapy, asserting that they somehow have exclusive rights to use those kinds of movements, and that massage therapist are to be prohibited by law; and threatened with misdemeanor charge if they practice those kinds of techniques.

I do not understand the reasoning behind such a ludicrous idea of exclusivity by the Physical Therapists, or the reasoning behind why that group is allowed input on Massage Therapy Licensing. It's similar to a Football coach telling a Soccer team that they cannot use their feet because the football players are already kicking the ball. Or that the heart surgeons demand that brain surgeons cannot use a scalpel because it's the heart surgeon's legislated right, therefore NO ONE else is allowed to use the incredibly useful tool. Please explain to this roomful of people the justice or wisdom in such legislation!

It is my request that this committee SUPPORT HB 662 ONLY AS AMENDED BY MASSAGE THERAPY task force WITHOUT ANY OTHER AMENDMENTS.

I thank you for your integrity in hearing the Massage Therapists requests and designing a viable law that allows us to continue to practice techniques that have been honored for millennia.

Sincerely,

Mary Lakes CMT