

## **Alabama Board of Massage Therapy Sunset Update**

Thank you very much for all the support the profession and public has provided in the opposition of sunseting of the Board. On May 17, 2018, the Board appeared before the Alabama Sunset Committee for its four-year review and addressed a few concerns regarding statistic information a committee member was interested in and better communications between the Board, licensees and the public. A member of the Sunset Committee informed me the Board was on a list to be sunset and the committee would decide at its business meeting on June 21, 2018 to vote to introduce legislation to sunset the Board during the 2019 Regular Legislative Session.

I was asked to submit a report to the committee on why the Board is necessary to regulate the Massage Therapy profession in the state. After discussion with Board members and Legal Counsel, it was decided to schedule a Board meeting in June to discuss and approve the justification report, prepared by the Executive Director, that is to be submitted prior to the Sunset Committee meeting.

This information was discussed with individuals and quickly spread throughout the massage community and gained quick momentum to ensure the Board is not sunset and is continued. Emails, letters and electronic petitions were circulated by members of the massage therapy community to respond to the efforts of the Sunset Committee and provide support. We have received overwhelming support in which the Board and I are very grateful and humbled. The emails and letters received will be included in the report to be presented to the Sunset Committee on behalf of the Board.

Your support of continuing the Board and the importance of regulating this profession has definitely reached members of the committee and we anticipate a good decision next week. As previously stated, the committee meets on Thursday, June 21<sup>st</sup> for their final decision. The committee has a work session, that I will be attending, on Wednesday to discuss and prepare their decision. I will let you know on Wednesday afternoon of their intentions and will provide a report on the Board's web site and via email so you will receive the information as quickly as possible.

Again, we thank you all for your support and communication to continue the Board. Please never hesitate to contact the Board's office if we can assist you in any way.

Keith E. Warren  
*Executive Director*