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August 13, 2008

Georgia Board of Massage Therapy
c/o Randall D. Vaughn, Division Director
Office of Secretary of State, Professional Licensing Division
237 Coliseum Drive
Macon, GA 31217

Dear Members of the Board,
Associated Bodywork & Massage Professionals (ABMP) is a professional membership association founded in 1987 to provide massage and bodywork practitioners with professional services, information, and public and regulatory advocacy. ABMP's current membership totals more than 64,000, including more than 800 members in Georgia.

ABMP has reviewed the proposed rule amendments being considered by the board. We have specific concern regarding the approval of continuing education courses. We believe that only allowing providers of continuing education that are NCBTMB approved will significantly limit the choice of courses available for Georgia massage therapists. According to the NCBTMB website there are only 18 approved providers in Georgia.

ABMP understands that it can be a tedious process for the board to approve continuing education programs. If the board does not want to continue this task, we would recommend allowing courses approved by the professional membership associations and state-approved schools in addition to the NCBTMB approved providers. This would allow Georgia licensed massage therapists more choice in identifying which continuing education courses to complete to satisfy the state requirement for renewal.

We commend the board for its proposed rule amendment to not require current NCBTMB certification of massage therapists coming to Georgia applying by endorsement. Thank you for your consideration of ABMP's views. If you have any questions, please contact me at jean@abmp.com or 800-458-2267 extension 645.

Sincerely,

Jean Robinson
Government Relations Director