

Client name Angela Nye
Form Montana Licensing Reform Task Force
Matter Angela Nye - Rules
Sent July 6, 2026 at 4:34 PM
Due
Submitted July 6, 2026 at 4:34 PM

Angela Nye

Date of birth

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Montana Licensing Reform Task Force

This Task Force was created pursuant to Executive Order 1-2026 on January 29, 2026.

Purpose of the Licensing Reform Task Force

The Task Force shall provide the Governor with recommendations and strategies for the State of Montana to reform the professional occupational licensing system for the purposes of:

- identifying and removing burdens and barriers faced by licensees that are not necessary to protect the public; and
- improving access to and availability of professional services for citizens across Montana, including rural communities.

In developing recommendations and strategies, the Task Force shall seek input from Montana citizens, legislators, Montana associations whose members are licensed occupational professionals, professional licensing boards, relevant state agencies, advisory groups and researchers focused on occupational licensing, and other appropriate stakeholders as determined by the Task Force.

Public Record

Please note that all information received through this form is public record.

Which committee would you like to receive your comment?

Full Task Force

We want to hear from you!

We would like to receive any comments you would like the Task Force, or one of its subcommittees, to review. In addition, we are specifically looking for feedback for:

1. Specific topics a committee or the task force should consider, and
2. Specific people or organizations you think the task force should hear from.

Do you have a general comment or a specific person or topic for the Task Force to hear from?

What are your comments?

Just want to comment that I think it's an absolute nutbag idea to merge the Massage Therapy Board with the Barbers and Cosmetology Board. What does massage therapy have in common with haircuts and make-up? Massage therapy is an alternative form of health care and it would be absolutely ridiculous and silly to merge these boards together. Please don't consider this foolish idea any longer. If a merge is necessary, merge massage therapy with a board for alternative healthcare like chiropractic, naturopaths, or acupuncture. Please, be sensible!

Client name Candy Van Frachen
Form Montana Licensing Reform Task Force
Matter Candy Van Frachen - Rules
Sent July 6, 2026 at 8:20 PM
Due
Submitted July 6, 2026 at 8:20 PM

Candy Van Frachen

Date of birth

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Full Task Force
Health Care Subcommittee

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Specific person or topic

What are your comments?

To whom it may concern, this letter is to request that The Board of Massage Therapy be left intact as is. We are health care providers. We do not fit with cosmetologist.

Regarding consolidating w/ Cosmetology:

- 1. Cosmetologists are not healthcare providers. They do not have the background knowledge to protect the public, which endangers the public health, safety, and welfare.*
- 2. Massage therapists are not ok with being outnumbered on the consolidated board because*
 - * cosmetologists have no healthcare background*
 - * The numbers would ensure that massage therapists don't have the power to protect the public because they could be outvoted by non-healthcare providers.*
- 3. Any cosmetologist providing healthcare services is not under the jurisdiction of the Board of Barbers and Cosmetologists. They must be supervised by a healthcare provider and are under the jurisdiction of the board of that healthcare provider – NOT the cosmetology board.*
- 4. Most (80%) massage therapists don't work in spas*
- 5. I work in 2 health care settings. One continuum care facility and treat out patients for PT and massage therapy. I am dual licensed, PTA and LMT. My training was medical massage. I'm also certified to treat lymphedema both under massage and PT. Lymphedema is a medical condition. Most of my work is to treat the body for health wellness and healing not a fufu massage. By changing the almost board to a non medical field this would limit patients ability to have insurance pay for treatment.*

Regarding consolidation with the Alternative Health Care Board (AHCB)

- 1. I Support the merger as it is written – no changes to board make-up*
- 2. The AHCB is made up of healthcare professionals, so are massage therapists*
- 3. Massage therapists don't mind being outnumbered on the consolidated board because*
 - * As written, each profession is equally represented on the board*
 - * Massage therapy would be regulated by other healthcare professionals*
- 4. Saying that massage therapy is not a life or death issue so shouldn't be on the AHCB: Well, what about the public member? Also, massage therapy when improperly applied can be a life or death issue (example: blood clots).*

Please keep massage therapy's board separate.

Thank you for your time.

Client name Carrie Jones
Form Montana Licensing Reform Task Force
Matter Carrie Jones - Rules
Sent July 6, 2026 at 7:37 PM
Due
Submitted July 6, 2026 at 7:37 PM

Carrie Jones

Date of birth

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Health Care Subcommittee

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Do you have a general comment or a specific person or topic for the Task Force to hear from?

Specific person or topic

What are your comments?

Members of the Committee,

I am a rehabilitational massage therapist. I work primarily with injuries, scar tissue, and long-term chronic pain. All of my work contains a whole body health aspect, which is absent from much of the rest of the healthcare system. I have been in this industry for over two decades. I have worked in spas, private practice, and a clinic. I have worked internationally and across state lines. Merging the Board of Massage Therapy with the Board of Barbers and Cosmetologists is a great disservice to the public, massage therapists/bodyworkers, and to cosmetologists/barbers. Cosmetologists are not healthcare workers. Massage therapists/bodyworkers are not cosmetologists. I have worked in a spa before, and frankly, it was classifying me in with the cosmetologists that made me leave that job. I was forced to practice outside my scope of practice when customers came in demanding skin care and hair care that I was not qualified to provide. Most massage therapists/bodyworkers do not work in spa practice, and we are required by our boards to have extensive training in anatomy, physiology and pathology. A board that has no experience with these subjects is not the place for us. Frankly, I do not think you should be consolidating us into another board at all. We face significantly different issues from other professions and our board is the best equipped to handle them. If you must consolidate us, (and again, I urge you not to take that route) then please consider merging us with the Alternative Health Care Board. The other members here will understand the issues we face because they are also health care providers, though of a different nature. This board also would give us equal representation as our merge with Cosmetology/Barbers would not.

I know it is tempting to think that this will address the trafficking issue that affects both professions, but it will not. That is a separate issue that needs to be handled by law enforcement and has nothing to do with our boards, nor would putting these two disparate groups together "solve" anything related to this.

I will leave you with this last thought. Many people have disparaged my hard-won knowledge and education by deciding that massage therapists/bodyworkers are not healthcare professionals. I feel that unless you want to take the thousands of hours of healthcare classes I have (and no, I'm not exaggerating! I have to be able to back that up for my licensure with documentation) that you have no right to say my professional board should not be a healthcare-based board. We are healthcare professionals. We deal with healthcare issues.

Do not merge our board with Cosmetology/Barbers. That will not protect the public.

Client name Ashley Zubick
Form Montana Licensing Reform Task Force
Matter Ashley Zubick - Rules
Sent July 6, 2026 at 7:06 PM
Due
Submitted July 6, 2026 at 7:06 PM

Ashley Zubick

Date of birth

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Do you have a general comment or a specific person or topic for the Task Force to hear from?

General comment

What are your comments?

Please do not join the massage therapy board with the cosmetology board. While massage therapy is frequently found in salons and spas, it is a branch of the healthcare field. We are frequently employed with chiropractic, naturopaths, physical and occupational therapist, MDs and midwives. Should the board decide to merge us instead of keeping us our own entity. Please merge with the naturopathic, acupuncture and chiropractic board who are all naturally minded healthcare practitioners along with the LMTs.

Client name Aleesa Watson
Form Montana Licensing Reform Task Force
Matter Aleesa Watson - Rules
Sent July 7, 2026 at 8:56 AM
Due
Submitted July 7, 2026 at 8:56 AM

Aleesa Watson

Date of birth

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Specific person or topic

What are your comments?

Dear Members of the Governor's Licensing Reform Task Force,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed licensing board consolidations. As a Licensed Massage Therapist (LMT), I respectfully urge you to reject the proposed consolidation of the Board of Massage Therapy with the Board of Barbers and Cosmetologists and instead support the merger with the Alternative Health Care Board (AHCB) as currently written.

Massage therapy is a healthcare profession—not a cosmetic service. Licensed Massage Therapists complete extensive education in anatomy and physiology, kinesiology, pathology, contraindications, ethics, law, and clinical assessment before passing a rigorous national licensing examination, such as the MBLEx or NCTMB.

Our education prepares us to assess clients safely, recognize when massage is appropriate, and identify contraindications that require modifying treatment or referring a client to a healthcare provider. Conditions such as blood clots, active infections, certain cardiovascular conditions, cancer-related precautions, and acute injuries require clinical judgment because failure to recognize them can result in serious injury—or even death.

Massage therapy is firmly established within today's healthcare system. Licensed Massage Therapists work in hospitals, provide specialized care such as oncology massage, collaborate with physical therapists and chiropractors who incorporate massage into treatment plans, and in many cases bill health insurance for medically necessary treatment. These are clear indicators that massage therapy is a respected healthcare profession.

While cosmetologists are highly trained within their profession, they are not healthcare providers. Their education, scope of practice, and regulatory responsibilities are fundamentally different. Placing massage therapy under a cosmetology board would remove healthcare oversight from a healthcare profession. Massage therapists would also be significantly outnumbered, allowing decisions affecting education, standards of practice, discipline, and public safety to be made by individuals without healthcare training.

Additionally, approximately 80% of Licensed Massage Therapists do not work in spas. Many practice in hospitals, chiropractic offices, physical therapy clinics, medical practices, rehabilitation settings, and independent healthcare practices. Our regulatory oversight should reflect where and how our profession actually practices.

The Alternative Health Care Board is the appropriate regulatory home because it is composed of healthcare professionals. As proposed, each profession maintains equal representation while ensuring massage therapy is regulated by professionals who understand healthcare education, clinical standards, and patient safety.

Massage therapy has earned its place as a healthcare profession through rigorous education, national testing, state licensure, and evidence-based practice. Our regulatory oversight should reflect that reality.

Thank you for your consideration and for your commitment to protecting the health, safety, and welfare of the people of Montana.

Respectfully,

*Aleesa Watson, LMT
Licensed Massage Therapist*

Client name Amanda Weller
Form Montana Licensing Reform Task Force
Matter Amanda Weller - Rules
Sent July 7, 2026 at 7:54 AM
Due
Submitted July 7, 2026 at 7:54 AM

Amanda Weller

Date of birth

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Specific person or topic

What are your comments?

The massage board should not merge with the cosmetology board, these are not within the same field. Massage aligns with health and wellness, cosmetology aligns with hair, skin and beauty.
