

(Name)
(Street address)
(City, state, zip)

(Date)

Honorable (Representative or Senator-insert legislator name),

(Introductory paragraph explaining why you are writing, and how the bill affects you)

Example of an introductory paragraph:

I am writing to ask that you support adoption of specific fee authority for the Dept. of Health to implement the licensure of animal massage practitioners. Currently, qualified individuals like myself are unable to work because the Department of Health has been unable to adopt the fees for our licensing, even though there is a demand for my services. I am ready and willing to pay these fees and their adoption would not impact taxpayers or the state budget.)

In 2007, SB5403 was passed into law allowing individuals with 300 hours of accredited training in animal massage to practice as animal massage practitioners under the Department of Health. However, the adoption of fees has yet to be approved due to complications surrounding Initiative 960.

For the past three years, qualified practitioners with the required training have been unable to apply for their license and consequently have not been able to earn a living. This has also resulted in lost tax revenue for the state.

I urge you to support budgetary language authorizing the Dept. of Health to adopt these health care licensure fees in the 2009-11 supplemental budget this year. It is important to note that these fees do not require state funds and will not impact taxpayers. The entire licensing process will be funded by fees paid willingly by individuals like myself who wish to practice in Washington.

It may seem odd that licensure of this profession is required. However, the practice of animal massage must be regulated for those that do not also hold a veterinary license.

Furthermore, there is strong demand for these services. The racing and show horse industry routinely utilize these massage services to keep the horses in top shape for various competitions. In fact, the demand in some areas is so great that qualified persons from other states were brought to Washington to provide the service. Meanwhile, qualified individuals right here in our own state stood by idle, losing precious income. I am asking you to support a small proviso in the budget that would put the final piece of legislative authority in place to provide licensure for this profession here in Washington.

(Closing –personalizing is best. Mention how the fee approval will help you financially or that adoption of the fees will not cost the state or taxpayers money.)

Examples of closing paragraphs:

With this one approval, animal massage practitioners in Washington State will be able to work in their trained field, a critical need in this time of economic difficulty.

Or

By adopting these fees, taxpayers will not be affected but will have access to a valuable service for their animals. By failing to adopt the fees, the state will continue to keep qualified people out of work while foregoing state tax revenue.)

Thank you for your consideration and for your service to our great State of Washington.

**Best regards,
(Insert name)**