



Legislative Advocacy and Policy Change Updates for MT Programs

with Dawn Hogue, Laura Puryear, Kevin Snedden, and Les Sweeney

Print this handout or download the document and then use the text boxes to type notes.

I. Education funding at the federal level

II. Current licensure bills

III. Interstate Massage Compact (IMpact)

IV. Deregulation attempts

Resources

ABMP Legislative Updates, <https://www.abmp.com/updates/legislative-updates>

Interstate Massage Compact (IMpact), <https://massagecompact.org/>

Panel Bios

Dawn Hogue

A graduate of the Cayce/Reilly School of Massage, Dawn Hogue has been in the healing arts profession for 25 years. She serves as the executive director for the Commission on Massage Therapy Accreditation (COMTA) where she manages the agency's operations, compliance responsibilities, and support of all COMTA activities. She is also the current vice chair of the Massage Therapy Advisory Board for the Virginia Board of Nursing. Dawn graduated from Naropa University having earned a master's degree in somatic psychology and is trained in the Matrixworks model of leadership and group facilitation. She is passionate about holistic health and advancing educational standards for massage therapy/bodywork and esthetics. Learn more at comta.org.

Laura Puryear

Laura Puryear is ABMP's director of government relations. Hailing from North Carolina, she has over 16 years of experience in the industry. After years of working on campaigns, she served as chief of staff to the finance chair of the NC House of Representatives before making her way into working in public policy in the private sector. In the year she has been with ABMP, she has focused on standardizing licensure requirements across state lines, elevating education requirements, and protecting scope of practice for massage therapists. She lives in Colorado with her small zoo of pets. Learn more at abmp.com/advocacy and connect with Laura at gr@abmp.com.

Kevin Snedden

As the director of industry relations for the Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards (FSMTB), Kevin works directly with other massage therapy organizations, massage therapy regulators, licensed massage therapists, massage therapy school staff, and students at the national level. Kevin is a US Army veteran and worked in the hospitality industry as a spa director before entering association management. He is a licensed massage therapist, massage therapy educator, and former state regulator with the Missouri State Board of Therapeutic Massage. Learn more at fsmtb.org.

Les Sweeney

Les Sweeney is president and chief executive officer of Professional Assist Corporation, the parent organization of ABMP, ASCP, AHP, and ANP, leading membership associations that serve more than 120,000 individuals in the massage and cosmetology professions. Les is a graduate of the University of Virginia, has more than three decades experience in association management, a master's degree in business administration with a concentration in entrepreneurship from the University of Colorado, is a licensed massage therapist, been the lead singer in a band for 30-plus years, recently got an undeserved hole-in-one, and inadvertently appeared on the Super Bowl XLIII telecast while returning to his seat from the restroom. Connect with Les at les@abmp.com.