REQUESTING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE, AND LABOR STUDY THE PARAMETERS OF TECHNIQUES FOR MASSAGE THERAPY AND CONSIDER DEFINING OR USING DISTINCTIVE LANGUAGE FOR THE TECHNIQUES EMPLOYED BY MASSAGE THERAPISTS.

WHEREAS, massage therapy plays a very important role in the health and wellness of the citizens of Arkansas as a practice that provides widely available and affordable massage therapy treatments and services throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, under Arkansas Code § 17-86-102(3)(C)(vii), the practice of massage therapy includes "any hands-on bodywork techniques and procedures rising to the level of the techniques and procedures intended to be regulated under this chapter and not covered under specific licensing laws of other boards"; and

WHEREAS, almost all of the current methods used in the practice of massage therapy are specifically covered by healthcare professional licensing boards; and

WHEREAS, the practice of physical therapy includes "manual therapy techniques, including soft tissue massage, manual traction, connective tissue massage, therapeutic massage, and mobilization, i.e. passive movement accomplished within normal range of motion of the joint, but excluding spinal manipulation and adjustment"; and

WHEREAS, the law in its current form creates a contradiction within the standards of practices of manual massage bodywork; and

WHEREAS, healthcare professional licensing boards within the state have used distinctive language in either administrative rules or statutes to practice define techniques, procedures, and methods for different goals and different needs of the public; and
WHEREAS, in order to avoid inconsistencies within the law, the General Assembly should pursue efforts to clarify the law regarding the parameters of techniques employed by massage therapists,

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT PROPOSED BY THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE, AND LABOR OF THE NINETIETH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

THAT the House Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor study the parameters of techniques for massage therapy and consider defining or using distinctive language for the techniques employed by massage therapists.

Respectfully submitted,

Representative Fredrick J. Love
District 29

By: JMB/JMB