

Legislative Position Statement of the
American Polarity Therapy Association

The American Polarity Therapy Association (APTA) supports legislative changes or developments promoting transformative influences in healthcare and in wellness education.

When regulation is required or elected by Complementary/Alternative Medicine (CAM) professions, the APTA promotes the use of creative approaches allowing for protection of the public, while not unnecessarily restricting the growth of existing practices, or the creation of new wellness potentials.

Polarity Therapy is a complete system of healing with a unique scope of practice. The APTA, the organization through which standards for the profession of Polarity Therapy are developed, advocates use of the APTA Standards for Practice, Education and Educators and its Code of Ethics as the basis of regulatory activities relating to Polarity Therapy. Anything less would negate the appropriateness of regulation as related to the public interest.

The APTA's highest priority legislatively is the protection of the rights of its qualified members to practice and teach. The APTA recognizes that this goal may be accomplished, either by inclusion within a law, or by exclusion from a law.

The APTA supports the individual or combined efforts of other related CAM organizations in their efforts to protect the right to practice of their qualified members, their defined scope of practice, and to promote overall freedom of choice for consumers.

The APTA welcomes involvement in forums which promote innovative, CAM practices including coalitions, the National Federation for Therapeutic Massage, Bodywork and Somatic Practice Organizations, the National Certification Board for Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork, and other organizations, foundations, federations, and consumer freedom of choice groups, etc. Membership in or attendance at these forums does not indicate that the APTA will always be in agreement with the legislative positions/actions of other professions or groups, nor that Polarity Therapy is within the scope of practice or regulatory jurisdiction of any other member professions or groups.

The APTA is opposed to the legislative tendency by which a massage education is required to practice Polarity Therapy and the tendency to define Polarity Therapy (energy work) as within the scope of practice of massage therapy. The APTA also opposes any legislation that allows the advertisement of Polarity Therapy, Polarity Bodywork Therapy, or Polarity services by massage therapists not trained according to APTA standards without indication to the consumer of the amount and type of their training in Polarity Therapy.

Any efforts to regulate more than one practice under a single law should either name all, or none at all, of those practices being regulated within its titling. The statutes should include the scope of practice of all being regulated, and specify the requirements for legal recognition for each type of practice/practitioner. Certifications, registrations, licenses, etc., should make public the particular practice(s) for which each provider is being qualified. The APTA does not accept as appropriate any regulation of its qualified members by laws which do not include this specificity.

When specificity is missing from a potential law, or the requirements for recognition are not based on APTA standards, the APTA will request that there be an exemption by title for Polarity, Polarity Therapy, and Polarity Bodywork Therapy within the proposed statutes. Listing in the Rules and Regulations as exempt after the law passes is not APTA's choice.

The APTA has worked in coalition with other energy practices to create acceptable exemption language. This language has been presented in the Legislative Packet of the Federation of Therapeutic Massage, Bodywork and Somatic Practice Organizations and to the American Massage Therapy Association (AMTA) for inclusion in their recommendations to states and reads as follows:

Nothing in this Article shall be construed to prevent or restrict the practice of any person in this state who uses touch to affect the energy systems, acupoints or Qi meridians (channels of energy) of the human body while engaged within the scope of practice of a profession with established standards and ethics, provided that their services are not designated or implied to be massage or massage therapy. Such practices include, but are not limited to Polarity, Polarity Therapy, Polarity Bodywork Therapy, Asian Bodywork Therapy, Acupressure, Jin Shin Do®, Qigong, Reiki and Shiatsu. Practitioners must be recognized by or meet the established standards of either a professional organization or credentialing agency that represents or certifies the respective practice based on a minimal level of training, demonstration of competency, and adherence to ethical standards.

Adopted October 1998

Amended February 2002

Amended August 2006