



amta
american **massage therapy** association®

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August 10, 2016

Attorney General Patrick Morrissey
1900 Kanawha Blvd. E.
State Capitol Building 1, Room 26-E
Charleston, WV 25305

Dear Attorney General Morrissey,

The American Massage Therapy Association (AMTA) is proud to have been consulted by the Office of the West Virginia Attorney General about the part massage therapy can play in providing alternative therapeutic approaches to opioids for pain.

Our association supports your efforts to change the course on recommended treatments for pain in West Virginia. As physicians apply these principles in developing treatment plans for their patients suffering from pain, massage therapy may prove to be a low-cost, safe and effective integrative approach. A growing body of research continues to demonstrate the value and efficacy of massage therapy for various types of pain. Massage therapists integrate well with the suggested practices developed by your office as professionals knowledgeable about pain relief and management. Massage therapists have been licensed health care providers in the State of West Virginia since 1998.

The American Massage Therapy Association promotes consistent education and high standards for massage therapists. AMTA and its West Virginia chapter look forward to health care practices that limit the use of opioids and take advantage of the potential for prescribing and/or referring pain patients to licensed massage therapists where appropriate. And, we hope other states will follow your lead in addressing the opioid problem by fostering holistic and integrative approaches to pain.

Sincerely,

Nathan Nordstrom
President

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