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Greetings Department Council Members,

My name is Lauren Schmeits; I am the owner of Universal Body Wellness Massage School in McKinney, TX.

In the very few minutes that I have to speak with you all, I want to spend it imploring you all to listen very, very carefully to what is being presented to you with an open and willing mind to see the issues at hand from a very different perspective of that by which you have been primarily exposed to by Legal Counsel and Directors. Once you do, I think you will see how the Final Proposed Rules issued for approval by the Massage Therapy Division fosters:

- Departmental defiance to the 2007 legislature and blatantly breaking the law
- Racism- There is no other way to put it
- Bias towards Career Schools
- Unprepared ness in their job performance
- Minimalist approach to mandated directives by the legislature
- Recklessness abandon towards stakeholders and the general public
- Egregious passive-aggressive behavior which has played out to nothing less than harassment to private school owners

These are very serious and startling allegations, however evidence of every allegation has solidly warranted them.

I invite you to please scrutinize all the data that is being brought to you. Look at both proposals, the one from the Massage Therapy Division and the one proposed by TAMSO and compare them side by side. Ask yourself these questions: How can the TAMSO proposal NOT be a win-win for absolutely everyone. Also ask yourselves, why have these issues gone so far? And how much further can these issues go if not remedied here, today? Your ability to mandate legislative compliance from Legal Counsel and Directors, will determine the answer to the later question. Unfortunately and regrettably, this situation has become very serious; recourse may be exercised.

You will hear or continue to hear comments and testimony of a proposal that is fair, just, and composed by those that are dedicated to our students, our industry and to our public to whom we all serve! We are the same people:

- Who wrote the approved curriculum for DSHS Massage Therapy Division
- Provided for the Department the very first set of proposed rules. The Department had none and was in a state of chaos and confusion after HB2644 was mandated into law
- Graduate the largest percentage of massage therapy students, with the highest testing scores and the highest pass ratios
- Continually step up to the plate to foster anything that would resemble a fair and equitable playing field for all schools to come together in the market place.
- We Make Common Sense!

Finally and very simply, the bottom line question is: Are you going to allow Legal Counsel and the Directors to abdicate their responsibilities, run their department outside the scope of their authority? Which could result in subjecting the Department to the additional expense in time, money and effort in having to respond to possible legal recourse. Or will you simply and justifiably mandate that they perform their duties as directed?

Thank you for your time!