

By: Nancy Porambo, President AMTA PA

JANUARY, 2005 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Rep. Gannon, Majority Chairman of the House Professional Licensure Committee, asked us to re-draft our licensure bill to reflect suggestions made by certain groups and individuals at the public hearing. The bill has been re-drafted to reflect the following changes:

- Creation of our own Board.
- Our Board includes the State Physician General- who is a doctor.
- Grandfathering for ABMP members.
- Added HIV and health care CPR training for massage therapists
- Gave Massage Board the power to review and increase the hours of education once licensure has been in effect for two years

Our Next Steps

- **The Lobbyist will meet with Rep. McCall to ask for his approval of our changes to the bill. As you may know, Rep. McCall is the prime sponsor of our legislation.**
- **If Rep. McCall agrees to our changes, the bill will be sent to the Legislative Reference Bureau to be officially drafted.**
- **Then, Rep. McCall will circulate a co-sponsorship memo to all Members of the House of Representatives to ask them to co-sponsor his bill.**
- Once Rep. McCall feels that he has enough co-sponsors, he will introduce the bill and it will get a bill number.
- After the bill has a bill number, we will begin lobbying the House Professional Licensure Committee to ask them to report the bill out of committee as committed. "As committed" means without any amendments that change the bill.
- The bill will then go to the Floor of the House of Representatives for consideration by all 203 Members of the House.
- We do not know an exact time frame for when the Professional Licensure Committee will consider our bill. That decision will be made by Rep. Gannon, Chairman of the Committee.

Grassroot Efforts

- A group of AMTA volunteers traveled to Harrisburg on January 26 to promote our licensure and ask House Members to co-sponsor the bill. We will continue our grassroots efforts until the bill becomes law.
- Grassroot efforts will include: writing letters to Chairman Gannon to ask him to report the bill from Committee as committed and
- asking AMTA members to write and/or call their own state Representative to ask him/her to ask Rep. Gannon to report the bill from Committee as committed.
- Once bill is reported from Committee and sent to the Floor, we will need to send letters and place calls to every Member of the House of Representatives. A sample letter will be posted on the website verysoon.