



PROTECTING THE PUBLIC
ELEVATING THE PROFESSION

New State Law Now Officially Recognizes CAMTC Certificate Holders as Health Care Providers

Congratulations CAMTC certificate holders! Our collaborative efforts have significantly advanced the massage therapy profession in California.

As of January 1, 2026, the State of California officially recognizes CAMTC's certificate holders as health care providers. Recently enacted revisions to state law designate certified massage professionals as health care providers.

This is a landmark achievement for our profession. California is now one of only three states to designate massage therapists as health care providers.

State Assembly Members and Senators from both parties cast a total of 232 votes.

Total bi-partisan votes were 232-0 in favor of the remarkable professionals we certify.

The amended law extends CAMTC's authority to implement state law through January 1, 2030.



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Since it was first passed, the California state Massage Therapy Act has placed regulation of the Massage Certification program administered by CAMTC under Healing Arts, along with:

- medical doctors
- chiropractors
- acupuncturists
- physical therapists
- registered nurses

*Equally important is that your
CAMTC certification **protects**
your professional title.*

State law is designed to help consumers and local governments easily identify certified professionals.



Accordingly, state law prohibits an individual from presenting themselves as a “certified massage therapist,” “certified massage practitioner,” “CMT,” or “CMP,” and from using terms such as “licensed” or “certified” to imply or suggest they are certified by CAMTC if they are not.

PROTECTING THE PUBLIC

As the State of California has recognized, CAMTC supports public protection by helping local governments enforce and maintain the highest standards of conduct. We can extol the value of consistent statewide certification and oversight of massage professionals.

Our work with the Legislature and more than one Governor has made California **the only state in the nation where massage businesses are legally protected from being regulated as adult entertainment.** No other state - even those with a costly and onerous licensing process - provides this level of protection to massage businesses.

Revisions to state law also remove the requirement for a referral from a licensed California health care provider before providing massage of female breasts. Instead, it requires written client consent, a safeguard that protects both the certificate holder and the client.



A Personal Note from Beverly May - CMT #1

CAMTC Director of Governmental Affairs

Our Journey and Future

On a personal note, I became a massage therapist 53 years ago. I love this profession. Like me, many of you have witnessed how massage therapy can be life-changing for both clients and therapists. I remember that as recently as 2008 our profession was hamstrung and demeaned by past regulations. Massage therapists were once assumed to be sex workers and were regulated accordingly.

Less than two decades ago, regulations included mandatory medical exams for venereal disease, windows in treatment room doors for police inspection, restrictions on office locations near schools or churches, zoning of massage businesses as “adult entertainment,” and even prohibitions against treating clients of the opposite sex.

In the early 1980s, I decided to dedicate my professional life to changing the way we were being perceived. I volunteered to lead statewide legislative reform to end the disparate treatment of massage professionals and to secure the respect our profession deserves. When I signed the articles of incorporation in January 2009 creating the California Massage Therapy Council, I knew we would ultimately prevail.

Today, more than 50,000 CAMTC certified massage professionals can claim the respect and recognition we have long earned and deserved. Colleagues across the country regularly tell me how much they wish their states offered the same protection and professional standing that we fought for and won in California.

What we do matters. Massage therapy makes a real difference in people’s lives. Your voice matters to me and to everyone at CAMTC. I invite you to share your thoughts so we can continue building an even stronger future for massage therapy in California.

Please email me at beverly@camtc.org

Beverly May

Respectfully,
Beverly May
Director of Governmental Affairs
California Massage Therapy Council