

# NBCAAM Legislative Action Guide

## READ THIS FIRST (TAKE ACTION NOW)

### Texas Veterinary Board Meeting: April 21

- Letters will be accepted through April 13th, please send ASAP to [comment@veterinary.texas.gov](mailto:comment@veterinary.texas.gov)
- Flood the Board with respectful, clear messages NOW
- **If you can attend the April 21 meeting — do it** [Texas Veterinary Board meeting](#) [Proposed changes](#)

## What's at Stake

If these changes move forward: - Access to qualified bodywork practitioners may be significantly restricted -Animal owners may lose the ability to choose their providers - Services may be driven underground instead of regulated properly

👉 This is not theoretical — this directly impacts your ability to practice and your clients' ability to choose care.

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## 1. Summary of the Issue

Proposed changes to the Texas Veterinary Practice Act expand the definition and control of “musculoskeletal manipulation (MSM)” to include, but not limited to, modalities such as PEMF, shockwave, and dry needling.

Proposed changes to the Texas Veterinary Practice Act expand the definition and control of “musculoskeletal manipulation (MSM)” to include, but not limited to, modalities such as PEMF, shockwave, and dry needling. The proposed changes to the Texas Veterinary Practice Act risk creating an overly broad and grossly imprecise definition of ‘musculoskeletal manipulation (MSM)’ by grouping fundamentally different manual therapies and tools together, each with distinct applications, purposes, and practitioner skill requirements under a single regulatory category.

These changes: - Broaden what is considered veterinary medicine - Increase veterinary control over these modalities - Limit the role of independent, certified practitioners - **Create an interpretation that could extend to massage, chiropractic, osteopathy, and other related modalities**

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## 2. NBCAAM Position (Right to Work)

NBCAAM affirms: - The right of certified practitioners to work - The right of animal owners to choose qualified providers - A defined scope that excludes diagnosis and prescription - Collaboration with veterinarians — not unnecessary restriction

[Link to our Right to Work Statement](#)

The organization supports clear, fair regulations that protect both access and standards.

**Members are encouraged to download and distribute the NBCAAM Right to Work Statement and attach it to any letters they send to the Veterinary Board or legislators. This helps reinforce a unified, professional position.**

### 3. Key Messaging Points (Use Everywhere)

- Animal owners deserve **choice and access**
  - Certified practitioners meet **rigorous national standards**
  - These professionals **do not replace veterinarians**
  - Other states already have **successful regulatory models**
  - Over-restriction will **reduce access and drive services underground**
  - Collaboration improves outcomes for animals
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### 4. ACTION CHECKLIST (DO THIS)

- ✓ Send a letter to the Veterinary Board (5 minutes)
  - ✓ Contact your state legislator (5–10 minutes)
  - ✓ Email or message your clients and ask them to participate
  - ✓ Share this guide with colleagues
  - ✓ Attend the April 21 meeting if possible
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### 5. Template: Letter to Veterinary Board

Subject: Urgent Comment on Proposed Changes to Chapter 573

Dear Members of the Texas Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners,

I am writing as a professional practitioner to express concern regarding the proposed changes to Chapter 573, particularly those affecting musculoskeletal therapies and non-veterinary practitioners.

As someone working directly with animals, I see firsthand the value that complementary therapies provide in supporting comfort, mobility, and overall well-being. Nationally certified practitioners, such as those credentialed through the National Board of Certification for Animal Acupressure and Massage (NBCAAM), meet rigorous educational and ethical standards and operate within a clearly defined scope that does not include diagnosis or prescription.

The proposed changes risk significantly limiting access to these services. Many veterinarians do not offer these modalities, and restricting them could reduce availability of care for animals and limit collaborative opportunities between professionals.

In my experience, animals benefit most when qualified practitioners and veterinarians work together. Other states have successfully implemented regulatory models that recognize trained professionals while maintaining high standards of care. For example, Tennessee has established a registration framework for

animal massage practitioners: <https://law.justia.com/codes/tennessee/title-63/chapter-12/part-2/>

Washington State also provides a clear certification pathway for animal massage practitioners: <https://doh.wa.gov/licenses-permits-and-certificates/professions-new-renew-or-update/animal-massage/certification-requirements>

I respectfully urge the Board to reconsider overly restrictive language and support balanced regulation that protects access, supports collaboration, and prioritizes animal welfare.

Respectfully, [Name] [Credentials]

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## 6. Template: Letter to State Legislators

Subject: Protect Access to Animal Wellness Care in Texas

Dear [Legislator Name],

I am writing as a constituent to express concern about proposed regulatory changes to Chapter 573 of the Veterinary Practice Act that could restrict access to qualified animal wellness practitioners.

These changes risk limiting consumer choice and reducing access to valuable complementary care services. Certified professionals provide safe, ethical, and non-medical services that support animal well-being.

I ask that you support balanced policies that: - Recognize qualified practitioners - Protect consumer choice - Encourage collaboration with veterinarians

Thank you for your leadership and attention to this issue.

Sincerely, [Name]

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## 7. Template: Message to Clients (Ask Them to Act)

Subject: Quick Action Needed to Protect Your Animal's Care Options

Dear [Client Name],

There are proposed changes in Texas that could impact your ability to access services like the ones I provide.

If these changes move forward, it may become more difficult for you to choose qualified practitioners.

Your voice matters. A short message from you can make a difference.

I've included a simple template below — it takes just a few minutes.

Thank you for supporting your animal's well-being.

Warmly, [Your Name]

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## 8. Template for Clients to Submit

Subject: Please Protect Access to Animal Bodywork Services

Dear Members of the Board,

As an animal owner, I value having access to qualified professionals who support my animal's health and comfort.

I am concerned that proposed regulatory changes may limit my ability to choose care providers.

Please support balanced regulations that allow continued access to trained, certified practitioners.

Sincerely, [Client Name]

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## 9. How a Bill or Rule Change Happens (Simple Version)

1. Proposal is drafted
2. Public comment period opens
3. Agency or committee reviews feedback
4. Public meeting is held (April 21 in this case)
5. Decision is made or revisions occur

### Key Terms

- **Rulemaking:** Agencies creating or changing regulations
  - **Public Comment:** Opportunity for input (still influential even after deadline)
  - **Hearing/Meeting:** Where decisions are discussed publicly
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## 10. Advocacy Tips That Actually Work

- Be respectful and professional
- Keep it short and clear
- Share your real experience
- Focus on animal welfare and access
- Avoid attacking veterinarians — emphasize collaboration

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## **11. Final Message**

This is about access, fairness, and animal well-being.

If qualified practitioners are pushed out, animals and owners lose.

Your voice matters — and timing matters even more right now.