Members of the committee, thank you for allowing me to testify today on the Interstate Massage Compact (IMpact). My name is Grant Minix, and I am a Policy Analyst at The Council of State Governments (CSG). We at CSG worked to develop the IMpact as part of a cooperative agreement between the Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards (FSMTB) and the United States Department of Defense to develop interstate compacts that promote licensure portability for qualified professionals throughout the country.

Since 2016, 372 pieces of licensure compact legislation have been enacted by 52 states and territories throughout the U.S. The IMpact is similarly structured to the Nurse Licensure Compact that Maine is currently a member of. These compacts give the option for licensed individuals who meet the requirements of the compact to obtain a multistate license which allows them to practice in every state that is a member of the compact. To help manage the compact, state licensing boards utilize a shared compact data system to keep track of multistate licensees and enhance public protection by giving a mechanism for states to share disciplinary history of licensees.

By enacting the IMpact, the state of Maine will provide qualified massage therapists the ability to move seamlessly between states to expand their practice and state workforces. This will enhance the ability of healthcare providers in this state to provide quality care in an expeditious manner. Patients will also see better access to care, especially in rural communities. One population that often sees the most benefits out of licensure compacts are military families who are commonly subject to relocation every 2-3 years. With the ability to expedite professional licensure across state lines through the IMpact, both military family members and the general massage therapist population will be more likely to stay in the profession and have the ability to provide quality care to people in Maine.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before the committee today and I will yield to any questions.