



Representative Marlene Anielski, Chair  
House State and Local Government Committee  
77 S. High Street, 12th Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Chair Anielski and Members of the House State and Local Government Committee:

Small Business Consultants of Ohio (SBCO) helps protect small businesses and non-profits from harmful regulations and champions policies that allow them to grow and thrive. On behalf of *She Has A Name* and other anti-human trafficking organizations throughout central Ohio, SBCO supports House Bill 717.

HB 717 would afford townships the same ability as municipalities to regulate massage establishments. The primary reason this is important is the fact that Ohio has several unincorporated areas that could become hotbeds for massage establishments that may have been shutdown by nearby cities. Over the past decade there have been countless sting operations targeting massage establishments that have been conducting prostitution related activities. HB 717 is aimed at preventing many of these from happening in the first place.

Typically, SBCO opposes enhanced regulatory authority over small businesses. However, this particular issue is so important to our state, as Ohio ranks 4th in the nation for reported human trafficking cases. Regulating a major source of this criminal activity, massage establishments, is one vital element in the fight. Not to mention that regulating the “bad actors” and shutting them down actually allows the reputable day spas and massage establishments to thrive.

The key provisions of HB 717 that are of importance to fighting human trafficking are as follows:

- Establishing prohibited hours of operation
- Prohibiting sexual or genital touching
- Requiring all individuals performing massages to hold a state-issued occupational license
- Requiring all applicants of a township-issued license to be eligible to work in the United States

Chair Anielski, thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of HB 717. If you or any committee members should have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brandon S. Ogden". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Brandon S. Ogden  
President, Small Business Consultants of Ohio, LLC  
614-999-8773