



Dayton School of Medical Massage

September 12, 2019

The Honorable Senator David Burke
Chairman Health, Human Services and Medicaid Committee
1 Capitol Square-Ground Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Senator Burke,

As the owner and President of the Dayton School of Medical Massage and its four branch campuses (The Cincinnati School of Medical Massage, Cleveland Institute of Medical Massage, Columbus School of Medical Massage and the Dayton School of Medical Massage-Lima) I fully support Senate Bill SB105. Our schools have been educating students in Ohio to become Licensed Massage Therapists since 1995. Students receive 900 hours of instruction in ethics, massage theory & practicum, anatomy & physiology, pathology, business as well as 105 hours clinical experience in our student clinics. Additionally, our graduates take a national test, submit an FBI/BCI background check and apply to the State Medical Board of Ohio to receive a license of Limited Branch of Medicine as a Massage Therapist. This is by no means an easy course of instruction but is necessary to ensure that therapists have the knowledge and skill level necessary to provide proper treatment to their clients.

Ohio is unique in the fact that it is the only state that licenses Massage Therapists through the State Medical Board, setting high standards that must be met in order to attain and maintain that license. But we are also unique in that we also allow both licensed and non-licensed massage providers. The loophole allowing untrained, non-licensed people to provide massage to an unknowing public needs to be closed. The unfortunate consequence of this loophole is that some unlicensed massage establishments are bad actors and use them only as cover for human trafficking operations while others though well intentioned simply do not have the skills, training, knowledge or oversight necessary and pose a safety risk to the public.

We believe that SB105 provides the necessary oversight needed to prevent undue risk to the public by ensuring all providers of massage are licensed therapists and by giving the State Medical Board the lawful authority to pursue and take action against those that are not.

Best Regards,

William B. Tahy
President
Schools of Medical Massage