



September 18, 2019

Chairman Burke, Vice Chair Huffman, Ranking Member Antonio and all members of the Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit comments today on Senate Bill 105. The Ohio Physical Therapy Association (OPTA), the state professional association representing physical therapists, physical therapy assistants and physical therapy students in Ohio, would like to offer our perspective on Senate Bill 105.

SB 105 would give local townships additional oversight over massage establishments in the state. Currently, unseemly characters use the term “massage” and “massage parlors” in their business as a cover for illegal sex activities and human trafficking. This is abhorrent. SB 105 would simply allow townships to create a registration for those practicing massage in their territory. In doing so, only appropriately trained and licensed practitioners, including physical therapist, would be eligible to provide massage services.

The bill also provides local governments additional means to regulate these businesses in their communities to ensure they are legitimate and professional businesses.

In reviewing the bill, there are some proposed changes to how massage therapy is defined in the Ohio Revised Code. The OPTA identified some issues and concerns with that new language. We were able to work with Senator Brenner, the bill sponsor, and proponents of the bill on a solution to those concerns. An amendment has been drafted and will hopefully be adopted by this committee to resolve those questions and concerns.

Once that amendment is adopted, the OPTA supports the bill moving forward.

Thank you for your consideration.