



**House Commerce and Labor Committee  
HB 347 – Support  
November 19, 2020**

Chairwoman Manning, Vice Chair Dean, Ranking Member Lepore-Hagan and all members of the House Commerce and Labor Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit comments today on House Bill 347. The Ohio Physical Therapy Association (OPTA), the state professional association representing almost 4,000 physical therapists, physical therapy assistants and physical therapy students in Ohio, would like to offer our support for House Bill 347.

HB 347 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. HB 347 would simply allow townships to create a registration for those practicing massage in their territory and a standardized terminology for the practice which would enable only appropriately trained and licensed practitioners, including physical therapists, 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.

OPTA is pleased to support this legislation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Victoria L. Gresh".

Victoria L. Gresh, CAE  
Executive Director