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OHIO TOWNSHIP ASSOCIATION

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November 19, 2020

The Honorable Gayle Manning, Chair
Commerce and Labor Committee
Ohio House of Representatives
77 S. High St., 12th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Re: HB 374 Massage Therapy Licensing Law

Dear Chair Manning:

On behalf of the Ohio Township Association (OTA), I am writing to express our support for House Bill 374, which changes massage therapy licensing law in Ohio. Specifically, House Bill 374 standardizes and streamlines regulations for massage establishments in Ohio. This bill ensures that massage establishments are appropriately regulated in townships, as they are in municipalities, and aids in the fight against human trafficking.

House Bill 374 is a product of collaboration between the OTA and the American Massage Therapy Association, with the goal of encouraging the growth of safe, legitimate massage establishments and discouraging bad actors or criminal activity.

The bill standardizes terminology related to massage therapy and regulates the profession under the State Medical Board (or other applicable professional boards). While the bill changes the licensing structure for massage establishments in a township, Ohio townships retain the ability to regulate massage establishments in their area, consistent with updated state law and township zoning resolutions. This change will help townships enforce health and safety standards, like municipalities currently, and will also help identify illicit activity, such as human trafficking.

The OTA supports the concepts in House Bill 374 and encourages your favorable consideration. Should you have any questions or concerns about our position, please do not hesitate to contact me at 614-863-0045.

Sincerely,

Marisa Myers
Director of Governmental Affairs

cc: Rep. Plummer
Rep. Manchester