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Deborah Hitt, NBCR, Executive Director
Ohio House Commerce and Labor Committee
House Bill 374
December 2, 2020

Chairwoman Manning, Vice Chair Dean, Ranking Minority Member Lepore Hagan, my name is Debbie Hitt and I am a National Board Certified Reflexologist and reflexology educator. I truly enjoy sharing reflexology with my clients and students. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 374.

The Reflexology Certification Institute and reflexology industry broadly support the objective of this legislation to combat bad actors using the guise of massage to conduct criminal activity and engage in the horrors of human trafficking. Thank you to the sponsors of the legislation and the stakeholders for vigorously advancing the goals of this legislation while also providing the legitimate reflexology businesses are not unnecessarily forced to close in Ohio.

The scope of reflexology is limited to hands, feet, and outer ears. Our clients are fully clothed with the exception of socks and shoes. No lotions or oils are directly applied to the client's skin in a reflexology session.

I have been studying reflexology since 2001 and am a National Board Certified Reflexologist through the American Reflexology Certification Board. I invest in reflexology education every year and have studied with individuals from around the world. I have been sharing reflexology for 19 years and love what I do both as a practitioner and an educator. I began teaching in 2012 as the Executive Director of the Reflexology Certification Institute and have been so excited and amazed at the power of reflexology and the transformation of my students. The Reflexology Certification Institute is registered with the Ohio State Board of Career Colleges and as such, is subject to the state regulations and various renewal processes. Three reflexology schools are currently registered with the Ohio State Board of Career Colleges. At the Reflexology Certification Institute, the goal is to provide the highest quality of reflexology education and to prepare our students to sit for the national exam.

Thank you to the members of this Committee for voting to accept the amendment to HB374 to clarify that nationally certified reflexologists and reflexology students are not required to hold a license to practice massage therapy in Ohio. Without your thoughtful consideration of that amendment, reflexology practitioners and educators could have lost the ability to work in the state.

I applaud the sponsors of this bill for their efforts to hold bad actors accountable and prevent human trafficking while allowing legitimate business to continue to operate in Ohio. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support for this meaningful legislation.