



*September 16, 2019*

RE: SB 105

Dear Legislators;

I am writing this testimony to you as both a Licensed Massage Therapist of 33 years and a Certified Massage Therapy School (12-05-1991T) since 2012, in support of SB105.

I have served in an advisory capacity to the Medical Board to help ensure standardization of rules and regulations to help quantify both education and scope of practice since 1999. The MTAC worked extremely long and many difficult hours to protect the citizens of Ohio that use Massage Therapy as a standard of holistic health and relief of chronic pain.

Over the years there have been many students who were unable to pass the licensing exam as prescribed by the State of Ohio Medical Board who has been regulating Massage Therapy in this state. There also have been other sources that have used the term Massage and have not been able to be regulated, therefore putting the citizens of Ohio at risk.

There also have been schools that have produced many students who have taken a shortcut to be able to use this "certification" to practice Massage and have been taught many technical applications but did not have to prescribe to the State of Ohio Medical Rules and Laws because they were able to circumvent the system. Yes, in many cases they went and were approved by the Career College and Schools Board

to teach and give a diploma but did not abide by the same rules and regulations as the schools that were certified by the State of Ohio Medical Board.

I support passage of this SB105 on both the citizens protection and to ensure that the remaining 22 certified schools are protected. I would also ask that we require anyone who in the future, even though they may have a diploma from one of these schools that claim to have Ethical Massage Practitioners, be required to return to a certified school and pass the MBLEx as required presently by the State of Ohio Medical Board.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

*/s/ Dennis J. Gibbons, LMT*

Dennis J. Gibbons, LMT

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