



Dear David Burke, Chairman of the Health, Human Services and Medicaid committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to write you regarding SB105, which if passed will require ALL massage to be licensed in the State of Ohio, thus eliminating unlicensed non-therapeutic massage.

As a Licensed Massage Therapist (LMT) with 31 years of experience, I have previously worked for the Ohio College of Massotherapy and National Institute of Massotherapy, and currently I am the Program Coordinator/Associate Professor of Massage Therapy at Stark State College in North Canton, totaling 30 years of massage education experience.

As you know, LMTs are licensed by the State Medical Board of Ohio (SMBO) who also thru the Ohio Revised Code set the requirements of massage therapy education. To obtain a massage therapy license, a student must complete a minimum of 750 hours of education, pass the licensing exam offered by the Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards (FSMTB), and then apply for licensure with SMBO. The SMBO does not regulate unlicensed non-therapeutic massage, therefore, all individuals practicing massage without a license have no educational background or knowledge of massage therapy indications or contraindications and the potential to cause harm to their patient.

SB105 will require ALL massage to be licensed within the state and help end public confusion regarding if the person they are receiving a massage from is licensed and has received the proper education necessary to recognize if their patient has any contraindications to massage. SB105 will also help end human trafficking and prostitution taking place as businesses that offer "relaxation massage" or unlicensed non-therapeutic massage. Recent raids in Cuyahoga county in July 2019 resulted in the arrest of 7 individuals for sex trafficking and the closure of 16 "massage establishments".

By passing SB105, we should see the closure of more of these businesses and hopefully the reduction of sex and work trafficking in Ohio. As a massage professional, I hope this will also end the negative connotation that massage therapists have received over the years and have the profession seen as the legitimate medical profession it is.

Thank you again for the opportunity to express my support of SB105, if you would like to contact me for further comments, I can be reached at Stark State College by phone or email.

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