

September 16, 2019

Senator David Burke, Chairman
Health, Human Services and Medicaid Committee
Re: Senate Bill 105

Dear Senator Burke and members of Health, Human Services and Medicaid Committee,

Thank you for allowing me a moment of your time to express my views on Senate Bill 105. Please let me introduce myself. I am a licensed massage therapist of almost 20 years. And prior to that I was with Bethesda North Emergency and a national registry paramedic examiner. I have taught massage curriculum and am a nationally certified Continuing Education provider with my own business, EduCareSpa. I am also employed with Massage Envy for the past 12 years and have been involved with training and compliance for the past 6 years. I also sit on numerous committees and am involved in the path of overall improvement of our industry.

I am greatly in favor of passing this Senate Bill. In my experience, the following points are strong reasons for support of this motion.

- I, along with thousands of others, have studied, learned and spent a great deal of money on our massage careers. The fact that untrained and uneducated practitioners can promote themselves as massage professionals is disrespectful to my training. The Ohio State Medical Board would not permit any other field (physical therapists, nurses, occupational or respiratory therapists, etc) under their jurisdiction to have unlicensed services.
- The consumer is unaware of the amount of training that a licensed therapist obtains. They are not aware that I am licensed by the Medical Board and these other businesses are not. Without a licensed, there is no liability insurance, which professionals carry, in the event of an injury to the client. There is no way to assure that services being rendered are treatment based or are not harmful to the public.
- Ohio ranks too high in the human trafficking and sex trade market. These unethical, illegal businesses often front as massage establishments. As there is no requirement for licensure currently, these facilities are difficult to report and shut down. Unlicensed, illegal businesses shine an unflattering light on the professional medical work performed by the licensed massage industry. Closing this licensing loophole will help to regulate the industry so that businesses engaged in illegal and sexual misconduct can be easily located, reported and eliminated. In the long term, this protects the public against prostitution, sexually transmitted diseases, associated drug addiction and deaths associated with these illegal activities.

Thank you for your time. I look forward to celebrating the passage of Senate Bill 105.

Professional Regards,
Santee Mentrup, LMT, NCBTMB
Massage Envy
EduCareSpa
Santee.mentrup@massageenvy.com
513-532-9904