

HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND MEDICAID COMMITTEE  
WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB105 - CHANGE MASSAGE LICENSING LAWS  
DARLENE SNYDER, BA, LMT  
SEPTEMBER 17, 2019

Dear Members of the Committee,

As an Ohio Licensed Massage Therapist (LMT) practicing since January 2002, my practice has always been exclusively inside Medical Practices; working independently within a Chiropractic Office and a Multidisciplinary team collaborating with M.D., D.C., & P.H.D. at Pain Relief of Dayton, whereby offering alternatives to opioids under one roof.

→ Thus my Opposition. This is NOT a spa or relaxation ESTABLISHMENT. However, medical massage therapy is conducted in such places as medical offices, hospitals, physical therapy facilities, rehabilitation centers, nursing homes, assisted living centers, etc. SB105 will create additional burdens to medical facilities offering medical Licensed Massage Therapy through the definition of massage ESTABLISHMENT. This is a point I want to present to the committee. Ohio LMTs are a very diversified field and largely NOT what is preconceived or stereotyped.

→ Of even greater concern is SB105 mandate **changing the Scope of Practice** for Licensed Massage Therapy and the ramifications to medical massage therapy in such institutions aforementioned. Current definition states *“massage therapy is the treatment of disorders of the human body...”*. This truly embodies what I do as an LMT for the past 17 1/2 years. SB105 will eliminate this definition replacing it with inadequate definitions defined by narrow techniques. Medical Massage Therapy will be at risk, restricting if not possibly eliminating the ability to work within such multidisciplinary teams. This change in Scope of Practice to encompass the Cosmetology & Barber license is a travesty to the field of Licensed Massage Therapy, especially to the field of Medical Massage Therapy.

Furthermore, Ohio LMTs are already scrutinized by the Ohio State Medical Board (OSMB) and are subject to inspections at anytime the OSMB deems necessary. Extensive background vetting preliminary to massage therapy education, as well as, acceptance into Board Examination is mandated, Whereby, such scrutiny sets OHIO Licensed Massage Therapists apart from a masseuse or masseur who, **by lack of LMT** behind their name, is OBVIOUSLY unlicensed and sends up a red flag to Ohioians of “Caveat Emptor!” Let the buyer beware!

Despite all good intentions to curtail human trafficking, I do not think SB105 intended to have a negative impact on Ohio License Massage Therapy nor such a devastating impact on Medically based Licensed Massage Therapy. It is imperative for the future of OHIO LMTs that committee members take a broader view of these negative outcomes attached to SB105..

Thank you for your time and attention to my OPPOSITION to SB105 by allowing my written testimony be read, and for the opportunity to present some of my concerns regarding SB105.

Respectfully Submitted,  
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