



Chairman Dolan, Vice Chair Gavarone, Ranking Member Sykes, and members of the Senate Finance committee, the American Massage Therapy Association of Ohio (AMTA) welcomes the opportunity to speak on behalf of the necessity for a Standing Advisory Committee to represent Licensed Massage Therapists (MT).

Massage Therapy represents the second highest contingency of licensees under the State Medical Board with the first MT being licensed over 105 years ago. Presently, there are 11,638 LMT's governed by the State Medical Board of Ohio; however, under the current regulations, massage therapy does not have any direct representation under the State Medical Board of Ohio. Massage therapists have not had a formal voice in any decisions regarding our profession since 1915, when we were first licensed. AMTA Ohio, appreciates the excellent, close contact it has and has had with leadership at the State Medical Board.

To provide adequate and professional representation for all MT's in Ohio and not just those that are members of AMTA-OH, we have proposed a Standing Committee that mirrors the Respiratory Therapy Advisory Committee. We are proposing this committee be made up of representatives of the American Massage Therapy Association, Associated Bodywork and Massage Professionals (ABMP), massage therapy educators, and members at large. State Medical Board of Ohio leadership has suggested that we seek legislation so that they can properly appoint members of the advisory committee. I would note that this advisory committee will NOT increase costs to the state of Ohio or licensees.

With so many licensees and no formal representation, we feel that this committee would be utilized in the development of any new rules or regulations, assist with any questions board members may have regarding disciplinary issues, and have input in any legislative issues that may arise. Language creating the advisory council was removed in the Senate Sub bill. We ask that the language be added back in, reverting to the House passed budget.

With such a large issue as Human Trafficking poses to our profession and to our state, more active input in our profession is an absolute must and AMTA-OH appreciates your helping us to make this a reality.

Cordially,

Melissa A. Ryan, LMT

AMTA-OH, President