



amta  
american **massage** therapy association®

500 Davis Street, Suite 900 | Evanston, IL 60201-4695 | Toll-free 877.905.2700 | Fax 847.556.1436

[info@amtamassage.org](mailto:info@amtamassage.org) | [amtamassage.org](http://amtamassage.org)

March 29, 2023

RE: SB 56: *The Massage Therapy Interstate Compact*

Chairman Huffman, Vice-Chair Johnson, Ranking Member Antonio and members of the Senate Health Committee, Thank you for your time today. We are writing on the behalf of the American Massage Therapy Association (AMTA) in regards to Senate Bill 56 (SB56). AMTA is the largest non-profit, professional association serving massage therapists, massage students and massage schools. Established in 1943, AMTA works to advance the profession through ethics and standards, the promotion of fair and consistent licensing of massage therapists in all states, and public education on massage therapy health benefits. We represent more than 100,000 members nationwide, and over 4,000 in Ohio.

AMTA fully supports and advocates for the rights of massage therapists to freely move from state-to-state without excessive administrative and financial burdens for which we believe the concept of an interstate compact is long overdue for the massage therapy profession. And although AMTA has concerns regarding some of the language, specifically but not limited to, setting the bar for education at 625 hours when that number is inconsistent with how states are currently regulated, assurances have been made by both CSG and FSMTB that a pathway for those practicing in states that have fewer than 625 hours as a condition of licensing will be clarified through 'rule' once the Compact Commission is formed and we hope and expect that those assurances will be honored. Ohio has the ability to take a seat at that table by being one of the first states to pass this compact.

We appreciate Senator Roegner's efforts on support Ohio's massage therapy workforce and the committee's time and attention. We are available should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

### AMTA Board of Directors

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A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James E. Specker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of each name being significantly larger and more stylized than the others.

James Specker  
AMTA Senior Director, Government & Industry Relations  
[jspecker@amtamassage.org](mailto:jspecker@amtamassage.org)

Cc: