



March 28, 2023

Ohio Senate Health Committee  
Senate Building  
1 Capitol Square  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

*RE: OH S 56, Interstate Massage Compact (IMPact)*

Dear Senator Huffman and Members of the Senate Health Committee:

The Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards (FSMTB®) is a not-for-profit corporation with membership comprised of the massage therapy regulatory boards and agencies in the United States and its territories. The State Medical Board of Ohio is a member of the FSMTB. The mission of FSMTB is to support its member boards in their work to ensure that the practice of massage therapy is provided to the public safely and competently.

**FSMTB supports the adoption of the Interstate Massage Compact (IMPact).**

IMPact is supported by FSMTB, the Council of State Governments, and the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD). **The compact has been thoughtfully developed by a working coalition of subject matter experts** representing massage therapy professionals, educators, employers, professional associations, consumers, attorneys, regulators, and legislators. The IMPact language also took into consideration feedback from a three-month public comment period.

**IMPact supports the relocation of military families by establishing a formal relationship between the states, easing the burdens of relocation both financially and professionally.** The DOD believes interstate compacts are the best solution for recruiting and retaining our military forces.

**IMPact benefits massage therapists by expanding employment opportunities and facilitating professional mobility for licensed massage therapists.** This specifically is advantageous for massage therapists engaged in seasonal work in the hospitality and spa industries. IMPact promotes workforce development by reducing regulatory burdens.

**IMPact will increase consumer access to quality healthcare.** IMPact protects consumers by permitting only qualified practitioners who complete education, pass the legally defensible and psychometrically valid national licensing exam, and have no disqualifying criminal history, to obtain the multistate license. **This improves workforce mobility and the ability of states to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public.**

IMPact benefits massage regulatory authorities through its centralized data system to facilitate sharing of licensure and disciplinary data between the states. **This information sharing may also mitigate human trafficking and illicit massage by facilitating and improving collaboration between regulatory authorities and law enforcement, to better identify trafficking networks.**

Finally, **IMPact preserves state sovereignty** as it retains a state's jurisdiction over individuals practicing in their state.

Thank you for the opportunity to assist you with making informed decisions. Should you have any questions about IMPact or the information above, please contact me at [dpersinger@fsmtb.org](mailto:dpersinger@fsmtb.org) or (913) 681-0380.

Sincerely,

Debra Persinger, PhD, CAE  
FSMTB Executive Director