

November 19, 2024 – Senate Local Government Committee – HB 315

Chair O’Brien, Vice Chair Gavarone, Ranking Member DeMora, and members of the Senate Local Government Committee, we are writing on the behalf of the American Massage Therapy Association (AMTA) regarding House Bill 315 (HB 315). 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 106,000 members nationwide, and over 4,000 in Ohio.

AMTA fully supports and advocates for the inclusion of updating township authority to protect the public from illicit businesses operating under the guise of Massage Therapy. Currently, Ohio regulates massage with licensure from the State Medical Board of Ohio. Licensees have gone through a strong educational program, have passed national licensure examinations, and maintain good standing with state oversight. Ohio Law does allow for unlicensed massage if it is not for therapeutic purposes. When issues arise, law enforcement is called in to investigate.

The language before you today allows for townships to have the opportunity to pass ordinances, like municipalities, which protect patients and massage therapists. The language is permissive and does not make any changes to the State Medical Board License. The language also updates terminology (Masseuse to Massage Therapist) and removes archaic testing for communicable diseases for state licensed massage therapists.

AMTA strongly supports HB 315 with this language included and appreciates the Legislature and the Ohio Township Association’s attention to the massage therapy community.

We are happy to answer any questions.

Sincerely,

James Specker
AMTA Senior Director, Government & Industry Relations

AMTA Board of Directors

President Kimberly Kane-Santos | **President-Elect** Cindy E. Farrar | **Immediate-Past President** Christine Bailor-Goodlander
Directors Jaime Bernardo Jr., Heber J. Blackner, Donald Goodale, Rick Greely, Robert C. Jantsch, Jane Horton Johnson,
Cheryl L. Siniakin, Ph.D., Lee Stang, LaDonna Ward