

November 18, 2025

TO: Ohio House General Government Committee

RE: House Bill 59: *Revise and streamline the state's occupational regulations*

Dear House Committee Members,

On behalf of the American Massage Therapy Association (AMTA), thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on House Bill 59 regarding licensure fees for the State Medical Board of Ohio.

AMTA is the largest professional association representing licensed massage therapists nationwide, with a commitment to advancing the profession by advocating fair and consistent professional licensing in all 50 states and promoting public education on the efficacy of massage therapy, and professional ethics and standards. We represent more than 108,000 members nationwide. Our organization values and supports the State Medical Board's vital role in ensuring that massage therapy and other health professions remain well-regulated, credible, and integral parts of Ohio's health care system. The Medical Board's oversight provides vital protection for both practitioners and the public. Its licensure and oversight process helps maintain professional integrity, deter illicit practice, and uphold consistent standards of care. These functions are essential to public safety and the integrity of massage therapy and other health professions in Ohio.

We recognize that House Bill 59 (HB 59) seeks to reduce costs and streamline occupational licensing processes. We fully support efforts that aim to help lower licensing fees for health professionals in Ohio, including our members. While we appreciate efforts to enhance efficiency and costs, we are concerned, in this instance, that reduced funding for the Medical Board could have unintended negative impacts. A reduction in staff would inevitably slow the licensure process and limit oversight capabilities that protect the massage therapy and other health professions as well as the public.

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Maintaining the Medical Board's licensure fees would help sustain its current operations and prevent these risks. AMTA supports ensuring the Board remains fully funded to fulfill its critical enforcement and regulatory responsibilities.

We appreciate your time and continued commitment as we remain committed to advocating for the highest professional standards on behalf of licensed massage therapists and their clients.

Sincerely,



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