

Pam Frank

As a parent of a 37 year-old son with severe involvement of Cerebral Palsy, I feel a need to speak up about the HB81 wording coming to the floor this Wednesday.

My name is Pam Frank and my son, Doug has greatly benefitted from both Trager and Feldenkreis work from several very talented professionals. They are different from and not massage therapists but seem to be being lumped into a category of being massage. I understand this Bill is to help control prostitution and sex trafficking. I personally do not know of one of these people who are in any way involved in sex trafficking or prostitution so I am confused as to why their practicing in this state might be banned. I would like to propose that some wording be added in amendment to exempt them from being all in the same category so that your plan is being directed where it should be instead of including those that are not involved.

My son has had help from these professionals that have improved my son's sitting, swallowing, postures, strength etc. that were critical to his health and to his progress today. I cannot say enough about the need for these people to be readily accessible to the many families struggling as we did. I could not have taken my son out of state for these sessions and kept my job! Please think about the importance of our local hospitals and their connections to these professionals as well. Many times the handicapped individuals need so many people to help them develop properly that they could barely make it to all the appointments that are local. If you ban this in Ohio, you create a scenario whereby these practitioners are forced to leave their homes or jobs and their families in order to work. You take help away from those of us who so desperately need it and you are not gaining anything by including them in this category of massage workers.

I have had to really look for help for my son- massage people as well as specialty professionals, doctors, therapists, nurses, surgeons, specialists in all areas because my son was born with Apgar score of 0-0-1. That is, I have been told, legally dead. But my son has served our wonderful state on its Disability Council several terms under Governor John Kasich and he has served locally, such as being "The Face of Goodwill" and President of Cincinnati's Reaching For The Stars chapter. He has been given a lot and has given back a lot. It is part of his rights to get care.

Please reconsider your verbage and add the exemption! Thank you in advance for your time!