

May 24, 2021

TO: Members of the House Commerce and Labor Committee

RE: HB 81 Testimony

The International Association of Structural Integrators (IASI) and the Dr. Ida Rolf Institute are writing to request exemption from HB 81. The law, as written, is reasonable for the massage profession. However, if Structural Integration (SI) practitioners are required to go through massage training in order to have a license to practice any manner of touch, this will be a burden to those practitioners, and restrict their right to practice their profession. Below are some points regarding HB 81 and its capacity to negatively impact SI practitioners. .

1. Requiring non-massage practitioners to have a massage license will have several negative impacts.

a) Massage schools do not, and cannot, offer training in structural integration. IASI recognizes SI schools that have met requirements set by the profession, and administered through IASI.

b) Given that massage schools cannot offer SI training, the massage therapy board members are not qualified, or even able to qualify SI practitioners, giving massage therapists the authority to set rules and regulations for SI practice is inappropriate at best. Taking into consideration that other practices, including SI, are the natural competition for massage therapy, giving massage therapists control of SI is an immediate probability for restraint of trade.

c) The International Association of Structural Integrators is the only organization that represents the structural integration profession. IASI recognizes schools that have met the minimum curriculum requirements, maintains a code of ethics, and standards of practice.

d) The Certification Board for Structural Integration(r) developed the Certification Exam for Structural Integration, a psychometrically valid certification exam that is offered nationally (and internationally) through the Pearson Vue system, making it accessible to graduates of all IASI recognized training programs .

e) The people of Ohio should be able to identify qualified practitioners of SI, and have access to their services. This protects the public from massage or other practitioners holding themselves out to be SI practitioners. This happens routinely in a lot of states.

IASI and DIRI, and OH SI practitioners, request that structural integration be exempt from the massage board. In order to make sure that the Board, and/or law enforcement have easy access to verify practitioners, the law could contain language that makes it possible to make a request for an SI practitioner's credentials. They can be provided with contact information for the IASI recognized training programs in order to verify legitimate practitioners .

EXEMPTION LANGUAGE:

.1 Nothing in this [article/ordinance/bill/regulation — as appropriate] shall be construed to prevent, limit or restrict the practice of any person who uses touch to effect change in the structure of the body while engaged in the practice of Structural Integration, provided that:

a) the person's services are not designated as or implied to be massage or massage therapy;

and

b) the person is recognized by or meets the established standards of either a professional organization or credentialing body that acknowledges or certifies practitioners of Structural Integration based on a minimum level of training, demonstration of competence, and adherence to established ethical standards.

.2 Exempt persons under [section] .1 include, but are not limited to, practitioners of Rolfing® Structural Integration, the Rolf Method of Structural Integration and Hellerwork®.

If the Medical Board determines that SI should be licensed, please license SI for what it is, and require:

- Proof of certification from an IASI recognized training program
- Certification through the Certification Exam for Structural Integration
- Rules and regulations relevant to the practice of structural integration
- Prohibition of unauthorized use of the title, Structural Integration Practitioner or any of its derivatives, in order to assure public safety by identifying and licensing SI practitioners who meet the minimum standards established by IASI

Attached are documents from IASI for Basic Education Standards for Recognized Programs, Scope of Practice and Code of Ethics. Information about the Certification Board for Structural Integration can be found at <https://www.theCBSI.org/>

The Movement Practices, including members of ISMETA, Trager and the Feldenkrais Guild are submitting an exemption request for movement practices only. IASI and DIRI support the exemption of movement practices from the massage statute. Please contact us with any questions. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Best regards,

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