



**Senate Health Committee
SB 55 – Support
March 3, 2021**

Chairman Huffman, Vice Chair Antani, Ranking Member Antonio and all members of the Senate Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit comments today on Senate Bill 55. The Ohio Physical Therapy Association (OPTA), the state professional association representing almost 4,000 physical therapists, physical therapy assistants and physical therapy students in Ohio, would like to offer our support for Senate Bill 55.

SB 55 would give local townships additional oversight over massage establishments in the state. Currently, unseemly characters use the term “massage” and “massage parlors” in their business as a cover for illegal sex activities and human trafficking. This is abhorrent. SB 55 would simply allow townships to create a registration for those practicing massage in their territory and a standardized terminology for the practice which would enable only appropriately trained and licensed practitioners, including physical therapists, to provide massage services.

The bill also provides local governments additional means to regulate these businesses in their communities to ensure they are legitimate and professional businesses.

OPTA is pleased to support this legislation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Victoria L. Gresh".

Victoria L. Gresh, CAE
Executive Director