

March 8, 2021

The Honorable Stephen A. Huffman, Chair
Senate Health Committee
Ohio State Legislature
1 Capitol Square
Ground Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chair Huffman and members of the Committee:

I am writing to you as a citizen of Ohio who is concerned about, and opposed to, SB 55 as it is currently written.

This legislation appears to be intended to address human trafficking which is a laudable goal. However, the proposed definition of “massage therapy” seems so broad as to include some valuable forms of movement education and re-education. Thus, I believe that the extremely broad definition of “massage therapy” presented in section 4731.04 is unfortunate.

I have used the services of practitioners of the Feldenkrais Method and the Anat Baniel Method®Neuromovement® (ABMNM). I have also been a student of ABMNM for almost 15 years and practitioners of these practitioners have helped me recover from movement limitations due to cancer surgery and from a fall that resulted in knee, ankle, foot injuries. In the latter case, physical therapy made the condition worse—I went from an injured leg to a leg that became spastic.

Practitioners of both of these related practices work from an educational paradigm, not from a therapeutic paradigm of trying “to fix” something that is wrong. Their highly individualized and gentle verbal and tactile guidance helped me regain my ability to walk independently and to maintain my independence as a senior. At all times when I was with these practitioners I was fully clothed, removing only my shoes during my lessons.

The American Massage Therapy Association’s website includes a discussion of “elements” of a “Massage Therapy Practice Act.” It addresses the concerns of practitioners of various forms of movement education with the following suggested language:

Nothing in this Article shall be construed to prevent or restrict the practice of any person in this state who uses touch, words and directed movement to deepen awareness of existing patterns of movement in the body as well as to suggest new possibilities of movement while engaged within the scope of practice of a profession with established standards and ethics, provided that their services are not designated or implied to be massage or massage therapy. Such practices include, but are not limited to the Feldenkrais Method of somatic education, the Rolf Institute’s Rolf Movement Integration, the Trager Approach to movement education, and Body-Mind Centering. Practitioners must be recognized by or meet the established standards of either a professional organization or credentialing agency that represents or certifies the respective practice based on a

minimal level of training, demonstration of competency, and adherence to ethical standards.
Downloaded: March 2, 2021--[Elements of a Massage Therapy Practice Act | AMTA](#)
(amtamassage.org)

I hope you will consider amending this bill to ensure that the services of skilled, certified, practitioners of the Feldenkrais Method, the Anat Baniel Method NeuroMovement, and other approaches to movement education are available to adults and children with challenging physical and/or neurological conditions – conditions where the medical community has very little to offer.

Thank you for considering this request to amend SB 55.

Sincerely,

Joyce Cameron, DMA, MA, NCTM