

March 8, 2021

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

Dear Chair Huffman and Members of the Committee,

I am a resident of Westerville Ohio who teaches The Feldenkrais Method® of somatic education and The Alexander Technique which are both forms of movement education. I have been qualified in both methods since 1987. Since 1998, I have taught both private and group work all over Ohio, including classes at Otterbein University, and as a guest teacher at several other universities around the state.

I am concerned that SB 55, though extremely important to combat criminal activity under the guise of legitimate massage therapy, may affect my right to practice The Feldenkrais Method® and the Alexander Technique. A certified Feldenkrais teacher requires a minimum of 800 hours of study followed by appropriate continuing study. Alexander Technique teachers complete 1200-1600 hours. Teachers of both methods must adhere to strict standards of practice and a code of ethics. These methods are practiced worldwide.

Both Feldenkrais® and Alexander use a wide variety of skills to create a safe atmosphere for learning, including verbal and hands-on instruction as well as demonstration and experiential learning to guide students to better understand their patterns of movement and thus, improve posture, agility and function, or to avoid or recover from injury.

Though somatic movement studies like The Feldenkrais Method® and The Alexander Technique make use of some hands-on guidance, they are very different from massage and have very different trainings. I would ask that you amend the bill so that they are included as an exemption on SB 55 along with Reflexology. This is how many other states have handled similar circumstances.

I appreciate your time and consideration in this matter. Please feel free to contact me with any questions that you may have.

Sincerely,  
Melinda Murphy  
Guild certified Feldenkrais Practitioner®  
Certified Alexander Technique Teacher  
281 Apache Street  
Westerville, OH 43081  
(614)397-2013