

March 8, 2021

Re: Please Amend Senate Bill 55

Dear Chair Huffman, Vice Chair Antani, Ranking Member Antonio and members of the Ohio Senate Health Committee:

I live in Cincinnati, OH and am a Guild Certified Feldenkrais Teacher®.

SB 55 could affect my right to practice the Feldenkrais Method® of somatic education (movement education) in Ohio. I ask that you amend SB 55 to add an exemption for people who practice movement education, and meet/adhere to the training, competency and ethical standards of their professional organization.

I have been certified by the Feldenkrais Guild® of North America (FGNA) since 2019. I use gentle touch to guide my students' attention to their habitual ways of moving. The touch serves to improve function by learning patterns for easier reaching, standing up, rolling, posture and walking. People see me because they need an approach that engages them in finding their own best practice for activities of daily living.

I graduated from an accredited professional training program of 800 hours that I flew back and forth to New York City over the course of four years to become certified. As a teacher, I am required to adhere to FGNA's Standards of Practice, Code of Professional Conduct and Grievance Protocol, and fulfill continuing competency requirements and renew certification annually. The Guild has developed and enforced internationally recognized accreditation and certification standards for the Feldenkrais Method since 1977.

I see clients of all ages as a Feldenkrais practitioner, many of them in their 70s and 80s who come to me to help them to walk again or to improve their walking and daily activities. One of my clients is 87 and she had tried everything to help her get out of pain and she tells everyone that it's because of my skills as a Feldenkrais practitioner that she is able to walk without pain. Even better, she now knows a few simple things she can do movement-wise to help her when she's had a day that causes her pain — often when she brings in her groceries. It's because I was able to voice-guide her movements AND gently touch her that she was able to figure out new ways of moving that were pain-free.

I make my living through this practice. Before the Covid quarantining, I would see 10-15 clients a week in person. For their safety, I have been seeing many of them online or outside. I expect that my practice will continue to grow as the weather warms and as the vaccines become more available.

Please amend SB 55. I would be happy to meet with you by video conference call if that would be helpful.

I would greatly appreciate a response. Thank you for your time and consideration of my concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Shircliff". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Brian Shircliff
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