

Jamie Daugherty Witness Testimony
Sub HB 81
Senate Health Committee
June 1, 2022

"Chair Huffman, Vice Chair Antani, Ranking Member Antonio, and members of the committee."

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony as a Proponent of Sub. HB 81, a bill to make changes to the laws governing massage establishments and massage therapy.

I support Sub HB 81, as long as it includes the following amendment to Sec. 4731.15. (F) "The following persons are not required to hold a license to practice massage therapy issued under this chapter...(5) A person who holds a certification, based on a minimum level of training, competency demonstration, and adherence to ethical standards, from a professional association or other credentialing body to practice movement or somatic education, which includes using touch, words and directed movement, with a fully clothed client, to deepen awareness of existing patterns of movement or suggest new possibilities of movement and does not include massage therapy."

Joan Taylor, a certified Practitioner of the Anat Baniel Method NeuroMovement, a form of movement education, worked with my son Brentlee for 2 years. Brentlee has a brachial plexus injury that he sustained from the midwife during his birth. His left arm was completely paralyzed except for his hand and fingers.

Top surgeons at the Brachial Plexus Injury Center in Cincinnati, Ohio, told me Brentlee would need a 13-hour surgery at age 5 months, grafting nerves from his legs to the brachial plexus, with no guarantee for improvement. When Joan Taylor worked with Brentlee, practicing the Anat Baniel Method NeuroMovement, I was always present and Brentlee was always fully clothed. Joan used a very calm and gentle touch to help build new neural pathways in his brain and assist in his recovery.

I am a licensed Physical Therapist Assistant, and the touch Joan used with Brentlee was very different than my training in physical therapy and massage. Brentlee absolutely hated traditional therapies and screamed and cried through his entire physical therapy sessions,

In contrast, ABMNM practitioner Joan Taylor was never aggressive when she worked on Brentlee, creating a genuine bond with him. Within 2 months of starting Anat Baniel Method NeuroMovement sessions, Brentlee started making REMARKABLE improvements. We returned to Cincinnati children's hospital 2 months after starting sessions with Joan, and Brentlee was cleared of needing major nerve grafting surgery. We continued with Joan for 2 years, and Brentlee went on to beat all odds and beat ALL surgeries. Brentlee's left arm is no longer paralyzed and he has full functional range of motion in that arm. The specialists, surgeons and all his therapists told me he was part of a 1 % statistic, and his recovery was nothing short of a miracle.

The possibility of not allowing these practitioners to practice without requiring additional unnecessary and inappropriate massage education, breaks my heart. The Anat Baniel Method NeuroMovement gave me hope when I had NONE. ABMNM Practitioner Joan Taylor was an answer to my prayers. My son Brentlee is now almost 7 and most observers would never even know he had a birth injury. This important movement education work is backed by the science of brain plasticity. It is vital that it continue in Ohio for the special needs children and parents who need it.

I respectfully request your support for the current amendment to Sub HB 81, Sec. 4731.15 (F) of the Revised Code.

Sincerely,

Jamie Daugherty, parent of a special needs child

6690 Preston Road, Frazeyburg, Ohio 43822

740-403-4562

Jmellars1101@hotmail.com