



Chairman Huffman, Vice Chairman Antani, Ranking Member Antonio and members of the Senate Health committee, my name is Dave Salisbury, and I am a government relations consultant for the American Massage Therapy Association. I would like to thank you for bringing House Bill 81 before this committee and allowing me the opportunity to testify on behalf of the Ohio Chapter of the American Massage Therapy Association (AMTA-OH).

I will be brief as this legislation is a companion bill to Senate Bill 55 which successfully passed out of this committee. A loophole currently exists in Ohio law that allows individuals to perform massage, as long as they do not call what they are doing “massage *therapy*” or advertise their practice as “medical” or “*therapeutic* massage.”

Bad actors have taken advantage of the loophole in the massage therapy law to open venues that offer “relaxation massage” that are no more than fronts for human trafficking and prostitution. In your testimony packet for today, there is a report from Abolition Ohio that estimates there are three hundred parlors in Ohio that are actively enslaving immigrants. Also, individuals who have quit massage school, failed their license test, or have had their license revoked continue to provide “massage” services.

House Bill 81, in its current form, is identical to Senate Bill 55 except for a House Committee added exemption for somatic education and movement providers.

House Bill 81 passed out of the House with a 95-0 vote and is needed to protect the women who are the victims of Human Trafficking, the public looking for legitimate massage and Ohio’s Licensed Massage Therapists working diligently to promote massage for non-narcotic pain control. AMTA, which represents the largest contingency of licensed massage therapists in Ohio, asks that you please vote Yes on House Bill 81 to accomplish this goal.

Thank you for your time, and I will be happy to answer any questions you may have.