

Dear Sandy,

I am in strong support of this bill. And would like to see many others that support the reduction and perhaps someday the elimination of human trafficking.

Sincerely,

Carol Hawkinson, LMT

Re: Senate Bill 387 – Support

Dear Senate Health Care and Human Services Committee Members,

Ashland Institute of Massage is a private career school offering a 650 hour training program in massage therapy. We have been training massage therapists for twenty-five years and currently graduate approximately 40 students per year.

We would like to voice our support of SB 387, which would amend Oregon Revised Statute 687 to give the Oregon Board of Massage Therapy (OBMT) oversight over massage therapy facilities in the state. We believe that the bill will lend vital assistance to the effort to combat the serious problem of human trafficking in Oregon by giving the OBMT the authority to discipline establishment owners operating illicit businesses under the guise of massage and assist in shutting those businesses down. We believe the implementation of SB 387 will have minimal impact on legitimate law-abiding licensed massage therapists.

Human trafficking ties many issues together: public health and safety, women's rights, teen and child abuse, immigration reform....

It is time to take the historically significant step to limit human trafficking in massage facilities by supporting SB-110/387.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Laureen Sutton, LMT

Bryn McCamley, LMT

Owners and Directors of Ashland Institute of Massage

February 8, 2013

Re: Oregon Senate Bill 387- Support

Dear Oregon Senate Health Care and Human Services Committee Members,

My name is Susannah Graven and I have held a license to practice massage therapy in the state of Oregon since June 2003. I have owned and operated my own medical massage practice in Medford since receiving my license to practice massage therapy. Over the course of the last ten years I have been an educator for seven of those years for the Ashland Institute of Massage instructing their business development program which also included Massage Ethics and Oregon Massage Law. I have also been the owner and operator of The Healing Chair (2005-2011), a corporate massage business that contracted other license massage therapists to work in the corporate environment practicing chair massage. I am also an active business mentor in Southern Oregon for other massage therapists who are interested in owning and operating their own massage therapy business. However, above all my other professional pursuits my first love is practicing the art of massage therapy.

One of the challenges of being a massage therapist is having an educated clientele. There are so many different modalities in regards to massage therapy that it can, at times, confuse the general public as to what form of therapy they will be receiving when utilizing a new therapist. This is one reason why I highly recommend people are referred to a licensed massage therapist for their appropriate need. Sadly, there are people in our local community who completely misuse and misrepresent the massage industry for means which is completely unrelated to what an actual licensed massage therapist is licensed to do. In southern Oregon this has become a situation with specific businesses operating as a legitimate massage business when instead these businesses are clearly putting our public at risk by having their contractors practice sexual activities in these specific businesses. I am compelled not only as a professional for my industry but also as a citizen to do my part that will create means to stop operations like these from equating themselves to massage therapy.

I am offering my support to Oregon Senate Bill 387 to amend the verbiage so that the Oregon Board of Massage Therapists can oversee not just massage therapists in the state of Oregon but also the facilities owners and operators which employ licensed massage therapists. I believe that the proposed fee is a nominal price to pay that gives our industry a gain in the pursuit of stopping the sex trade as well as potentially human trafficking in our state. Senate Bill 387 is not just protecting our public, practitioners but ultimately human beings from all nations that may be actively exploited and potentially in harm's way.

Sincerely,

Susannah Graven L.M.T.
Oregon license #10482

To whom it may concern,

I would like to voice my support for S.B.-110 (387). From what I understand, sex trafficking in Oregon is a considerable problem. Prostitution associated with massage therapy practices is also part of the problem.

If instituting a fee for offices that have more than one massage therapist on staff will help the massage board keep track of the offices and massage therapists licensed and practicing in the state and will help keep things "above board" by making it more difficult for offices to move around quickly to avoid the law, I for one am in favor of it.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yours in health,

Matt Sheehan, D.C.
Medford Family Chiropractic Center
897 Royal Avenue, Suite A
Medford OR. 97504

Jackson County CAN (Child Abuse Network) made up for 40 agencies, adult survivors and interested community partners are proud to support Senate Bill 110 (387). We have previously endorsed legislation that opposes sex trafficking and believe strongly that requiring permitting of massage facilities will assist in reducing trafficking. If we can provide any further support, we hope to hear from you. Thank you so very much for the opportunity to add our voice in support.

Dee Anne Everson, Executive Director, United Way of Jackson County
Convener, Jackson County CAN (Child Abuse Network)