

From: [Malone Debbie](#)
To: [Clark Cathy](#)
Subject: FW: SB 387
Date: Tuesday, April 30, 2013 4:45:52 PM

From: Larson Tyler
Sent: Tuesday, April 30, 2013 4:45 PM
To: Malone Debbie
Subject: Fwd: SB 387

For OLIS

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Eric Polgar <egpolgar@gmail.com>
Date: April 30, 2013, 4:31:48 PM PDT
To: <Tyler.Larson@state.or.us>
Subject: SB 387

Mr. Larson

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 387 which your committee will be discussing tomorrow.

SB 387 requires the Oregon Board of Massage Therapy to oversee permitting of Oregon massage facilities as of January 1, 2014. I believe this will not only protect the public by requiring the licensing of facilities that provide massage therapy...it will also allow the Oregon Board to pursue actions against owners of clinics for employing non-licensed providers. Through these means, it will be much more difficult for criminals to use massage therapy as a front for their human trafficking business and will ensure that business owners hire only licensed providers for their facilities.

According to the National Certification Board for Massage and Bodywork, massage therapy is one of the most popular covers that criminals use for human trafficking. (<http://www.ncbtmb.org/blog/fighting-human-trafficking>).

Likewise, The Polaris Project estimates there are nearly 5,000 brothels in the United States that are in operation under the guise of massage therapy centers. Furthermore, they indicate that human trafficking is one of the fastest growing criminal enterprises in the US. SB 387 will ensure that Oregon is a leader in the prevention of human trafficking under the guise of massage therapy.

In Oregon, massage therapy is a licensed health care field, unfortunately there is no current legislation that holds the owners of massage facilities responsible for the services provided in their businesses. All current legislation holds the provider, not the owner, responsible. In theory an owner can hire a non-licensed provider, profit from the delivery of unlicensed massage services and have no

responsibility if and when a complaint is made. When the provider is fined, the owner can just hire another unlicensed provider and continue putting the public at risk.

As an LMT, and someone who receives massage services I strongly encourage you to approve SB 387.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Eric Polgar MBA, LMT 16474