



# Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, MD, Governor

## Board of Massage Therapists

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## Testimony to House Committee on Health Care

### SB 387A Massage Facility Permits

To: Chair Greenlick  
Representative Weidner  
Representative Kennemer

Vice-Chair Keny-Guyer  
Representative Lively  
Representative Clem

Vice-Chair Thompson  
Representative Harker  
Representative Conger

Chair Greenlick, members of the House Health Care Committee: For the record; I am testifying in support of SB-387A. I am David Fredrickson, a practicing licensed massage therapist in Oregon since 1987 and a resident of Ashland. I serve as the Chair of the Oregon Board of Massage Therapists and as a policy committee member for the Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards, representing 42 state boards, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

SB-387A will provide public health and safety protection by:

- 1) Requiring the hiring of State Licensed Massage Therapists by permitted facilities.
- 2) Requiring permitted facilities be subject to sanitation and workplace health and safety laws.

The Affordable Health Care Act supports the integration of massage therapy into state-regulated insurance plans both in its definition of Health Care Practitioners and in its definition of Essential Health Benefits. The Oregon Health Authority will in all likely-hood adopt similar language to meet AHCA standards, recognizing massage therapy as a safe, proven, cost-effective Complementary and Alternative Medical (CAM) referral option available to physicians and their patients.

Under SB 387A:

- 1) Patients Benefit by knowing they are receiving health care services from a Licensed Health Professional.
- 2) Physicians Benefit, knowing they can refer for Licensed Massage Therapy with the confidence that massage facilities are providing Licensed Therapeutic Massage services.
- 3) Taxpayers Benefit by the assurance their Medicaid dollars are funding legitimate, legal Licensed Massage Therapy services.

The State of Oregon shares the nationwide concern with human sex-trafficking. Oregon may have one of the highest per capita rates of sex-trafficking, teens involved in sex-trafficking and sex-for-sale establishments. The historic overlap with illicit massage facilities offering sexual services is clear to everyone.

Current Oregon law is focused on penalizing sex industry workers providing massage services. In effect criminalizing the victims of sex-trafficking, whose lives and livelihoods are being controlled, threatened and abused. Investigation and prosecution of human traffickers themselves often involves the coordinated efforts of Federal and State law enforcement agencies due to the interstate nature of their illicit business. This is an expensive, protracted process often outside of the means and priorities of State and local law enforcement personnel.

SB-387A provides a simple, cost-effective regulatory mechanism to access and limit facilities involved with sex-trafficking under the guise of massage therapy by:

- 1) Requiring a one-time purchase of a massage facilities permit.
- 2) Requiring the hiring of Licensed Massage Therapists.
- 3) Requiring compliance with State sanitation and work-place safety laws.

SB-387A has the unanimous support of the Oregon State Senate and: The major massage industry trade associations (AMTA, ABMP and FSMTB); the CHP Group representing the Chiropractic Profession in Oregon; Massage School Owners; Massage Educators; Massage business owners; The Child Abuse Network of Jackson County; Social Service and Inter-faith groups supporting victims of human trafficking; Health Care Professionals counseling trauma victims; and, Licensed Massage Therapists and their clients.

Representatives, I ask you to protect the health and safety of Oregonians by supporting SB-387 and move it forward to the House of Representatives for consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

David Fredrickson, LMT  
OBMT Board Chair