



TO: House Committee on Health Care
FROM: Aaron Gustafson
President, AMTA-OR
DATE: April 5, 2021
RE: Concerns with HB 3159

The American Massage Therapy Association (AMTA) is the largest non-profit professional association serving massage therapists, massage students and massage schools. The AMTA Oregon (AMTA-OR) chapter currently includes more than 2,000 members throughout the state.

While we are incredibly supportive of health equity initiatives, Oregon's Licensed Massage Therapists have concerns about implementation of HB 3159.

Understanding our concern is easier if you understand a bit more about us:

- We are a diverse and nurturing community working with integrity, respect and dignity.
- We are a nonprofit member-driven organization of ethical professionals.
- We embrace consistency in education.
- We endorse professional standards.
- We affirm and promote the benefits of massage therapy as validated by research.

HB 3159 may cause members to be in conflict with the core values of integrity, respect and dignity as well as with our pledge to be ethical professionals. Perhaps we are in a unique situation in that our paradigm has us view this bill as dealing with sexuality, a topic from which we have tried so hard to distance our profession.

Topics even bordering on sexuality can be fraught in the context of massage. Merely asking can be an intrusive complication in the therapeutic relationship, unless the patient brings it up as being relevant.

So, it is our hope that the legislature will provide to the licensing Boards within the bill the power to assess their professional situations and allow them to use their own discretion in determining the who, what, how and when of information collection methods.

Thank you for your consideration of our position.