



TO: House Committee on Judiciary
FROM: Devery Broddie, Board President
DATE: March 26, 2025
RE: Support for HB 3819

The American Massage Therapy Association (AMTA) is the not-for-profit professional association created by massage therapists for massage therapists. The mission of AMTA is to develop and advance the art, science and practice of massage therapy in a caring, professional and ethical manner to promote the health and welfare of humanity. The AMTA Oregon chapter (AMTA-OR) currently includes more than 2,000 members throughout the state.

In conjunction with the Oregon Board of Massage Therapists, AMTA-OR has dedicated time and resources to finding ways to eliminate illicit massage businesses (IMBs) in Oregon. Through educating members, working with local business licensing ordinances and advocating for statutory changes, AMTA-OR is dedicated to stopping IMBs and the human trafficking that we know is occurring. Licensed Massage Therapists, who are state authorized healthcare professionals, vehemently condemn the fraudulent use of our profession for exploitation and illegal activity.

Unfortunately, the illicit massage industry is one of the largest and most networked sex trafficking markets in the United States. IMBs sell commercial sex while masquerading as legitimate massage or bodywork businesses, hurting legitimate businesses and Oregon's Licensed Massage Therapists (LMTs). IMBs are successful in part because they operate in plain sight alongside other everyday businesses, with spa-like names that lend a veneer of legitimacy. A closer look offers more insight: hours are often late, clientele is not diverse, entrances are private, windows are covered, and no one is an LMT.

HB 3819, with amendments, will further efforts to stop IMBs by:

- Providing OBMT authority needed to identify illegal massage facilities
- Increasing criminal penalties and fines that are currently not stringent enough
- Making LMTs mandatory reporters for suspected illegal activities by unlicensed actors and businesses

We urge your support.