

Submitter:

Tom Bird

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB3819

My Name is Tom Bird and I've been married to a licensed Chinese Massage Therapist for 13 years. She is a member of the AMTA, and so are many of her friends. Do you think their voices should be heard in regards to what is going on their profession? The explosion of Illicit massage facilities affects them more than anyone. Chinese massage therapists and people involved in Chinese massage are the only experts on Chinese. Apparently the OBMT isn't interested in talking or listening to them.

This comment is from OBMT meeting notes dated November 04, 2024.

"The recent news article in Willamette Week has had the desired effect. We have been contacted by local law enforcement, city administrators, the AMTA Oregon, State Representative Thuy Tran (House District 45 PDX areas), the Department of Justice and a State Lobbyist, to name a few. As a result, we hosted a meeting of AMTA leaders, FSMTB executives, and lobbyist Cindy Robert (working with Oregon Rep. Tran). The meeting was to educate all on the issues of the illicit massage business and human trafficking under the guise of massage in Oregon and what the board is doing to address these issues and finally what help or assistance can our partners provide".

OBMT scheduled a meeting with everyone that reached out to them in regards to that degrading article in the Willamette Week.

I reached out to OBMT on behalf of my wife and other licensed Chinese massage therapists to correct them on all the false derogatory statements they made, and asked for an appointment. They were also provided with the real reason for the explosion of illicit massage facilities in Oregon. No response. They met with the Oregon Chapter of the

AMTA. But they won't meet with Chinese massage therapists. That's racial discrimination. Meeting with Chinese massage therapists would have been the most valuable input in regards to this legislation.

You should look at facts, rather than racial profiling. How many convictions for human sex trafficking are there out of massage facilities in the state of Oregon. ZERO. How many are there in America? Allegedly there are 15,000 illicit massage facilities in America. Go back 10 year or so, and there should be 100,000 or so illicit massage facilities in that time span. There should be thousands of **confirmed** cases of human sex trafficking out of massage facilities in America. How many **convictions** are there for Human sex trafficking out of Asian massage facilities in America? Ask Chinese massage therapist for their input and you will learn facts about their profession. They are the only experts.

Major problems with this Bill. Thuy Tran testimony is offensive, degrading, and shows she knows nothing about Asian Massage, or Chinese Culture. I reached out to Thuy Tran and asked if she has talked to any Chinese massage therapists. No response. She also has no interest in talking to the only experts in this profession. Her comment; "the hyper-sexualization of Asian women based on offensive and outdated stereotypes is racism. Her comments are stereotyping, outdated, and racist. Her source, The Network, is discredited by everyone in Chinese massage. The Charts Thuy Tran posts are not accurate. The Network does not compile data accurately.

Having LMT's as mandatory reporters is not a good idea. What qualifications do they have? You can't drive by an Asian massage facility and know what's going on inside. The OBMT is providing LMT's with false degrading information they got from trainings done by the Network, and ignoring licensed Chinese massage therapists in Oregon and Washington. Innocent licensed massage therapists will be subjected to more harassment, abuse by LE, racial profiling, and false arrest, due to their race. OBMT is hiring outside contractors to conduct investigations. OBMT is providing them with false information which leads to more harassment and racial profiling. You are going to drive massage therapists out of Oregon, because of their race.

I reached out the Oregon Chapter of the AMTA. No response. Apparently they don't want to learn facts about Chinese massage from Chinese massage therapists that are also AMTA members.

This is also not a good idea; *Allows the board*] to post a placard on the exterior of a massage facility found to have committed specified violations.

There are potential problems with this. Some times owners immediately sell after they are written up and fined. What if a sign is posted and there is a new legitimate owner. This hurts the new business owner. A new Chinese owner might not know what the sign means and leave it up, leading to more harassment. The general public may misinterpret the signs meaning leading to further racial profiling and harassment. A sign may be up for unlicensed massage, but could lead to assumptions of prostitution, etc. What's stopping anyone from taking the sign down or covering it up. A spa owner may take the sign and put in the window of a spa down the street.

I am very concerned about the safety and well being of my wife's friends, and all licensed Chinese massage therapists in the state of Oregon. My wife doesn't not want to practice massage in Oregon due to all the illicit spas. I would not let my wife practice massage in Oregon due to the OBMT.

This Bill should not go forward as it's written. This bill will only increase the amount of harassment and racial profiling. Chinese massage therapists want you to eliminate the number of illicit spas in Oregon, why don't you talk to them? I would encourage a different State Representative to write a Bill based on facts not racial profiling. Meet with Chinese massage therapists. They are your most valuable source. They want the illicit massage facilities closed more than anyone.

Thank you for your time,

Tom Bird

