

5/10/2025

Testimony in OPPOSITION HB 3819

Senate Committee on Judiciary

Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Sam Guthman, and I am submitting testimony on behalf of APANO Communities United Fund to express our concerns with HB 3819 as currently amended, and to respectfully request a revision to the bill that removes the provision increasing the criminal penalty to a felon.

APANO is a statewide racial justice organization rooted in the lived experiences of Oregon's Asian and BIPOC communities. Our communities include many immigrant and refugee workers, including those in personal service industries who have historically faced cultural stigma, discrimination, and over-policing. We support policies that promote community safety and well-being, but HB 3819's approach risks disproportionately harming the very communities it aims to protect.

We understand and share the desire to address unlicensed or exploitative activity in massage and reflexology services. However, increasing penalties to a Class C felony will likely have unintended consequences. Criminalizing individuals without addressing the systemic barriers they face—such as language access, licensing challenges, and lack of culturally competent support—risks recreating patterns of racialized enforcement, especially for Asian and immigrant-owned businesses.

Instead of focusing on punitive enforcement, we urge lawmakers to consider alternatives that prioritize:

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- Community education and licensing support;
- Culturally specific outreach to business owners;
- Civil penalties that are proportionate and avoid long-term legal consequences;
- Investments in workforce development and regulatory assistance.

We ask that the committee amend HB 3819 to remove the felony classification and replace it with tools that support compliance, accountability, and dignity. Addressing harm and ensuring safety must go hand in hand with equity.

Thank you for your consideration and commitment to policies that uplift all Oregonians.

Sincerely,

Sam Guthman  
Policy Manager  
APANO Communities United Fund