

To: Public Health Committee
From: Nicole Arel
American Massage Therapy Association-Connecticut Chapter (AMTA-CT) Representative
Date: March 29, 2021
Re: SUPPORT for HB 6666 – An Act Concerning the Department of Public Health’s Recommendations Regarding Various Revisions to the Public Health Statutes (Section 39)

Chairman Daugherty Abrams, Chairman Steinberg, Ranking Members Somers and Hwang, and distinguished members of the Public Health Committee:

My name is Nicole Arel and I am writing in support of Section 39 of HB 6666. I am a state licensed massage therapist since 2006, the American Massage Therapy Association (AMTA) Government Relations Chair and National Delegate to our Assembly of Delegates, and a small business owner of my massage practice.

Many licensed Massage therapists in Connecticut own their businesses, and there are a fair number who employ other licensed massage therapists, estheticians, nail or hair techs, and general staff. When the licensing was changed for estheticians and nail techs, there was language that discussed who was permitted to manage an establishment employing these professions. Massage therapists were left off, meaning that these business owners either needed to let go of staff or hire someone else to manage their businesses. I was immediately contacted by a number of licensed massage therapists who were distraught that they were now going to be in violation of the law.

This was an oversight with the passage of the esthetician bill in the 2019 legislative season (as confirmed with Representative Gilcrest, a chief proponent of the esthetician bill). We appreciate the efforts of Representative Gilcrest, along with the Department of Public Health, to correct the statute and to restore that ability to our members and member businesses that have suffered as a result of that inadvertent statutory change. Therefore, I support HB 6666, *An Act Concerning the DPH’s Recommendations Regarding Various Revisions to the Public Health Statutes*. Specifically, the revisions to CGS Section 20-265h found at Section 39 of the bill.

On behalf of AMTA-CT and our 2200+ members, I respectfully request that you Support HB 6666 as it pertains to correcting the CGS relative to licensed massage therapists being allowed to manage certain businesses.

Sincerely,

Nicole Arel

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