

To: Public Health Committee
From: Rebecca Torns-Barker
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 Rebecca Torns-Barker and I am writing in support of Section 39 of HB 6666. I am a state licensed massage therapist of 16 years and Board Certified since 2017. I also have been an active volunteer within the American Massage Therapy Association (the AMTA) for over a decade.

The over 2200 members of the AMTA-Connecticut chapters support HB 6666, *An Act Concerning the DPH’s Recommendations Regarding Various Revisions to the Public Health Statutes*. Specifically, we support the revisions to CGS Section 20-265h found at Section 39 of the bill. This section will allow massage therapists to manage businesses that employ hairdressers, cosmeticians, estheticians, eyelash technicians, nail technicians, and massage therapists. This was a right that massage therapists used to have, but which was inadvertently changed with the passage of the esthetician bill in the 2019 legislative season (as confirmed with Representative Gilchrest, a chief proponent of the esthetician bill). We appreciate the efforts of Representative Gilchrest, 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.

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,



Rebecca Torns-Barker
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