



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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Good morning, Senator McDonald, Representative Lawlor, and members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is State Representative Jack Hennessy, of the 127 District. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

I support Committee Bill No. 5883, An Act Concerning the unlicensed practice of Massage Therapy. I speak regarding this proposed legislation as one who is a licensed massage therapist. I graduated from the Connecticut Center for Massage Therapy in 1997, which is an accredited massage therapy school. I received 550 hours of classroom training. I am a member of the American Massage Therapy Association, and I passed the National Certification Examination for Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork. Although I am not currently practicing as a massage therapist, I maintain the license.

Two years ago I was instrumental in getting a bill passed that protects the name massage therapy and makes it illegal to use the term unless the practitioners are licensed with the State Board of Health. The bill before you today establishes criminal penalties for the unlicensed practice of massage therapy or the use of a title that implies licensure as a massage therapist.

As one who has practiced in the field many years, I know this bill is necessary to protect the public from those that don't have the training and the intensive background that the certification requirements demand. Besides the physiological training, there is extensive ethic's training, and we operate with insurance coverage.

I know there are many people who practice massage therapy without a license and day spa owners who hire them may not really care. The passage of this bill will bring this requirement to there attention. I spent many thousands of dollars and over two years going to school to become a licensed massage therapist. Once in the field, I was amazed to be working along side people with absolutely no training. This is unfair to the hardworking, dedicated healthcare professionals who work to move the massage therapy profession forward and the public are put at risk.

This bill puts teeth into previous legislation that prevents the misuse of the term massage therapy and protects the public, insuring that they get the care and treatment that is of the highest standard.