

## Support Statement for House Bill 5455

My name is Nicole Arel and I have been a Licensed Massage Therapist (004433) in CT since February 2006. I teach both Massage Therapy 1 and Acupressure at the Connecticut Center for Massage Therapy and my practice is exclusively Traditional Thai Massage.

I am in full support of House Bill 5455. What I teach, and what I do, in terms of both Acupressure and Thai Massage, includes 'the systematic and scientific manipulation and treatment of the soft tissues of the body, by use of pressure, friction, ... percussion, ... vibration by manual ... means, range of motion and nonspecific stretching.' This is taken directly from the Connecticut General Statutes to define Massage Therapy. Therefore, I feel that including these modalities will help to protect the public and consumers as they are looking for new massage modalities and may not know the correct questions to ask a potential massage therapist.

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### Reference:

#### CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES Chapter 384a Massage Therapists

**Sec. 20-206a. Definitions.** As used in subsection (c) of section 19a-14 and sections 20-206a to 20-206f, inclusive, and Section 3 of Public Act 07-35:

- (a) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Public Health.
- (b) "Department" means the Department of Public Health.
- (c) "Massage therapist" means a person who has been licensed to practice massage therapy under the provisions of sections 20-206a to 20-206f, inclusive.
- (d) "Massage therapy" means the systematic and scientific manipulation and treatment of the soft tissues of the body, by use of pressure, friction, stroking, percussion, kneading, vibration by manual or mechanical means, range of motion and nonspecific stretching. Massage therapy may include the use of oil, ice, hot and cold packs, tub, shower, steam, dry heat, or cabinet baths, for the purpose of, but not limited to, maintaining good health and establishing and maintaining good physical and mental condition.  
Massage therapy does not encompass diagnosis, the prescribing of drugs or medicines, spinal or other joint manipulations, nor any service or procedure for which a license to practice medicine, chiropractic, natureopathy, physical therapy, or podiatry is required by law.