

HB 5455: An Act Concerning Penalties For and the Investigation of the Operation of Illegal Massage Establishments.

Dear Senator Steve Cassano, Representative Linda Gentile and all members of the Planning & Development Committee,

In my career of more than 28 years I have learned that if there is something going on that cannot be regulated or enforced, and it causes a disruption, interference or degradation to any part of the community, this quickly becomes a Quality of Life Issue. Quality of Life Issues generally ruin residential neighborhoods and negatively impact the business community, as well. When this happens, people tend to start to move out of those areas thereby negatively affecting the tax base of the municipality.

As things are currently, we as police officers have little or no ability to adequately enforce what little regulations there are on the books, in order to monitor and regulate businesses that this bill HB 5455 will affect. Without the ability to regulate and enforce the goings on within these types of business establishments we lose our ability to ensure a safer City for our residents, businesses, schools, churches, etc., thereby having no control over the Quality of Life that people that live, work, learn, pray, etc., should have within our City.

With no ability to monitor, regulate & enforce the business practices of these types of establishments, we cannot control what goes on near our schools, whereby young children walk past these businesses on a daily basis going to and from their neighborhood schools each day. And, we cannot establish a safe and inviting environment for other businesses to draw customers to go to, losing those potential customers and even possibly residents or business owners.

We believe if this bill HB 5455 is passed, it will establish a much better format for these types of businesses to operate under and give all municipalities, equally throughout the State, the ability to better regulate and enforce the rules that will oversee them. Having a State Law to work with establishes a standardized format that can address numerous issues that city ordinances cannot, that have little or no effect on these establishments, are different from town to town, and basically have no weight when it comes to enforcement.

The passing of this bill HB 5455, will give us (and all municipalities across the State) what is needed to help restore a better Quality of Life in our residential neighborhoods, school zones, religious and commercial areas.

We fully support and urge the passing of this bill.

We thank you for all the time and effort that you have put into this effort to help our police departments re-establish a higher quality of life in the towns & cities we work in.

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