



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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Testimony in support of Raised Bill No. 5545, LCO No. 1880
An Act Concerning Penalties for and the Investigation of the Operation of Illegal Massage
Establishments.
Planning and Development Committee
Public Hearing 03.16.12
Submitted By: State Representative Jack Hennessy

To Senator Cassano, Representative Gentile and members of the Planning and Development Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Raised Bill No. 5545, An Act concerning Penalties for and the Investigation of the Operation of Illegal Massage Establishments. My name is Representative Jack Hennessy and I am a licensed massage therapist. I spent years of study at the Connecticut School of Massage Therapy and spent many thousands of dollars to get the right to practice massage therapy. I do not appreciate the term and profession being tarnished by anyone that misrepresents themselves as massage therapists. I was very happy to have been instrumental in passage in 2006 of language outlawing the use of terms indicating any practice of massage. Hence, there are no more "massage parlors". But the work continues. Illicit sex rings now use the terms "Shiatsu", "acupressure" and "Thai massage" to hide under. This needs to be stopped.

The inclusion of making it illegal for employers to hire persons not licensed with the Connecticut Health Department, making it a class C misdemeanor, is a natural and necessary progression as we try and route out these criminals.

I thank the committee for raising this bill and I hope it gets the support it deserves and gets passed into law.

Thank you for your time, attention, and consideration.

Sincerely,

Representative Jack Hennessy