

Latraverse HB 6243

Hello,

I am writing to express my extreme dissatisfaction with the effort to remove "Thai Yoga" from the massage therapy statutes. I am a Massage Therapist of 15 years, trained in Newington, CT and I worked administratively at the Connecticut Center for Massage Therapy for 5 years post graduation. Presently, I own my business in Marlborough, CT and make my living solely doing Massage Therapy.

In my opinion, 'Thai Yoga' is a term that was created to elude massage therapy laws - it was created so people would think of yoga instead of massage. In fact Thai Massage should be viewed as a graduate course to a 500 hr massage therapy training. There are over 100 (this is a generic and very low estimate) BASIC moves to Thai Massage.

I'm tired of other professions latching on to the hard earned reputation that Therapeutic Massage has gained over decades from hard work and dedication from my predecessors. We requested and pay for licensure, liability insurance, CEUs, business taxes, etc. There would be no regulation on yoga instructors (or prostitutes!) once this term is removed - and it now gives them the right to piggyback on our reputation.

The main complaint of the people trying to remove this term from the statute is that they are not doing massage. Thai Yoga, Thai Massage, Assisted Yoga, etc., is actively moving another person's body. This is unlike Yoga, where you are not touching another person - you are guiding and demonstrating movement. This is not a yoga therapy or personal training. Lets call it what it is- it's a form of bodywork. To protect the public and our profession - they should be licensed as massage therapists.

We pay a pricey license fee. We expect some title protection.

Sincerely,

Tina Latraverse
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