



amta
american **massage therapy** association®

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April 12, 2022

TO: The Colorado Springs City Council
RE: Proposed Massage Business Ordinance

We are writing on behalf of the American Massage Therapy Association (AMTA), in response to the City of Colorado Springs proposed massage therapy ordinance which is scheduled to be discussed at the City Council meeting on April 12, 2022.

AMTA is the largest non-profit, professional association serving massage therapists, massage students and massage schools. Established in 1943, AMTA represents more than 95,000 members nationwide and works to advance the profession through ethics and standards, the promotion of fair and consistent licensing of massage therapists in all states, and public education on massage therapy health benefits.

AMTA does not oppose fair and reasonable establishment licensing. In order for the association (national or chapter) to support massage therapy legislation, the proposed language must not have any mention of adult/erotic entertainment, prostitution, human trafficking, or other illicit and/or illegal activities covered under the states' criminal code, as those activities are not associated with licensed, educated, and professional massage therapists.

The graphic definitions of "specified anatomical areas" and "specified sexual activities" (2.3.101) have no place in an ordinance that seeks to issue a business license to Massage Therapists licensed by the State of Colorado. Legitimate and licensed practitioners have obtained a minimum of 500 hours of education, have passed a nationally-recognized licensing exam, and passed a background check. It is offensive and inappropriate to refer to sex acts taking place in a "massage business". (*Please see 23.3.107, B(2), B(4), C*). We respectfully ask that you amend the current draft to remove mention of the practice of massage as being related to prostitution or other illicit activities.

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While we commend efforts that communities and states take to rid their communities of illicit businesses operating under the guise of "massage," we oppose any burdensome legislation and regulations that are at the expense of legally practicing professional, educated and licensed massage therapists. We collaborate with many stakeholder groups nationally to address these issues, and our work with municipalities across the country provides an opportunity to utilize AMTA as a valuable resource.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James E. Specker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'J' and 'S'.

James Specker
AMTA Senior Director, Government and Industry Relations
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