

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Licensing & Administrative Procedures
For HB 2134

Compiled on: Sunday, April 2, 2023 3:26 PM

Note: Comments received by the committee reflect only the view of the individual(s) submitting the comment, who retain sole responsibility for the content of the comment. Neither the committee nor the Texas House of Representatives takes a position on the views expressed in any comment. The committee compiles the comments received for informational purposes only and does not exercise any editorial control over comments.

Hearing Date: March 29, 2023 8:00 AM

Jeffrey Pennell
Cambridge Spa Group
Austin, TX

I am against the bill. I am the CEO of Cambridge Spa Group. We employ 1100 Licensed Massage Therapists across the state of Texas in 41 separate locations. Licensed Massage Therapists and Licensed Massage Establishments are both highly regulated. This bill only makes additional restrictions available to local political subdivisions further constraining legitimate businesses. This does not address human trafficking, or illegal sex work. This is identical to the over-regulation of the legal and legitimate Massage Therapy Industry that the state of California has imposed. LMTs and Licensed Establishments are not the source of illegal sex work and human trafficking. All regulation that is necessary to oversee these establishments is currently available to city, county and state authorities. This bill is unnecessary and is an example of local overreach in state regulated business.

Brenda Padilla
American Massage Therapy Association Texas Chapter - President, Self- Massage Therapist
Arlington, TX

As the President of the American Massage Therapy Association Texas Chapter, a 8+ years Board Member of AMTA-TX, a licensed Massage Therapist for over 16 years and a Massage Therapy Instructor - I do NOT support this HB2134. This bill would hurt our already licensed, law abiding Texas residents and members trying to earn a living providing a service for our community. Many of our members travel and perform massage in multiple cities. The passing of this HB 2134 would mean that all massage therapists would have to acquire a license in each city that he/she lives and works in. The therapists that are already licensed and following the rules would be hurt by adding on unneeded fees to their struggling profession. This HB2134 would not prevent the illegal massage places to stop massaging but unduly put more pressure on the cities to waste limited resources and time on something the State of Texas already does. This is a costly expense (mistake) that could end legal massage therapy for the entire state. We are regulated by TDLR to extremely high standards already and this bill would make it impossible to earn a living in a struggling economy. How could each city regulate this without using limited resources on something the State of Texas already regulates? This could put the power of the cities over the already strictly regulated State of Texas and TDLR. Then the State would have to regulate the cities and further making a chaotic cycle that never ends and should have never started to begin with. Again as stated before I am Brenda Padilla, The Texas Chapter AMTA President and I DO NOT support HB2134. This is a waste of time, waste of resources and a total lack of respect to a process that is already in place.

Darren Tice
self
Round Rock, TX

As a licensed Massage Therapist I am against this bill. We do not need anymore restrictions, especially from a city or county official that knows nothing about Massage Therapy. This is how California regulates massage therapy and I thought the goal was for Texas not to become California!

Brenda Padilla
Self - Massage Therapist
Arlington, TX

Hello I am Brenda Padilla, a licensed Massage Therapist in the DFW area. I am also an instructor of a massage program at Tarrant County College. I do not support this HB2134 for many reasons. This is a slap in the face for you all. TDLR and the State of Texas already have policies and rules in place for each legitimate massage therapist. Adding this HB 2134 would not even touch the illegal "massage" situations from occurring but make more needless work for the cities and the state. No illegal practice will comply for this city license so why hurt the therapists that are good hard working Texans like myself and the students I am teaching. I offer massage in Arlington at my rented studio. I also travel all over the DFW area to massage in my client's homes and offices. Does this mean I need a license in Fort Worth, Dallas, McKinney, Frisco, Carrollton, Everman, Burleson, Forrest Hill, Weatherford, Lancaster, Duncanville and need I go on? I would be spending thousands upon of thousands of dollars in city fees that I could not make a living doing what my passion is all about. I am already regulated by the State through TDLR to some of the highest standards in the country. (I was licensed in Illinois at one time. Texas is better) Why would I have to prove again and again to local cities that I am doing my job to it's best when Texas says that I already do? I honestly couldn't afford to do multiple licenses in multiple cities and would have to quit massaging. This is such a waste of time and effort for something that is already done and could be the end of massage in Texas. Oh hell no I do NOT support HB2134.

Monica Garza, Massage Therapist
Self/massage therapist
El Paso, TX

I oppose this bill. I do not agree with it as a massage therapist. Please consider my vote.

Kirsten Shepard, Dr
Self, Chiropractor & LMT
Austin, TX

Many therapist work statewide, changing this licensing would be detrimental to the clients they serve.

Shannon Burns
Massage Wnvy
Austin, TX

This bill would cause massage industry to be more regulated and harder for us to work in Texas. Please vote no.

Steven Townsend
Self
McKinney, TX

As a small business in Texas I don't know how it's possible to stay in business with having to register with every city in Texas. I travel in any city when needed. Can't predict on a daily basis the city I will work in.

Raymond Rust

self, Licensed Massage Therapist Hands on Approach Inc. American Massage Therapy Association Texas
carrollton, TX

I am opposed to HB2134, which if passed would not regulate or stop unlicensed and illicit operations purporting to offer massage services. The tools are already available because these are illegal businesses. They are criminals already according to Texas law, whether licensed or not. Human Trafficking, prostitution, and practicing massage without a license are crimes by definition.

Texas (TDLR) already regulates me more restrictively than any state in the U.S. and is a model for that effort. I pay licensing fees to practice massage therapy in Texas and am subject to regular and unannounced inspections and fines for not following the laws and rules as mandated. As a professional, I have to follow hundreds of rules for the regulation of Massage Therapists and Massage Establishments, or be potentially fined, or have my license revoked. Dozens of the rules are just about illicit practices. I must be fingerprinted and go through a criminal background check prior to licensing and upon each renewal and am required to complete 12 continuing education hours and a mandatory Human Trafficking course with each license renewal. As a Massage Therapist if I operate a Massage Establishment another separate license is required. Allowing a city to also have requirements to regulate massage businesses would be a burden on existing businesses, confusing as individual cities could have rules in conflict with TDLR, and costly by requiring additional fees like permit fees to operate in addition to the licensing fees I already pay, these rules may be different from city to city where I practice Massage Therapy or operate a Massage Establishment. A Massage Establishment owner who has businesses in multiple cities will have to navigate an already challenging path and could literally have different closing times in different cities for the same business type. Cities already have the ability to send in their police departments and inspect my business at any time to see if I am in violation of Chapter 455. If the business is not licensed for example as a reflexology or Thai Massage business with TDLR, the city can regulate those business types any way they choose as they do not fall under TDLR purview. We do not need more regulations for licensed massage therapists and establishments. We need to be protected from cities mandating additional requirements to operate already licensed and well-regulated Massage Therapists and Massage Establishments. In addition, this bill is vague and unenforceable with unclear repercussions and outcomes for Licensed Massage Establishments and doesn't answer who will ultimately enforce this law and how will cities enforce it and be stopped from ultimately abusing it to keep legitimate businesses out of their city.

Cities have the tool for law enforcement as stated

Sec. 455.353. ENFORCEMENT BY PEACE OFFICERS. A peace officer of this state, including a peace officer employed by a political subdivision of the state, may enforce this chapter.

Vickie Hughes, LMT

Self

Arlington, TX

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Lauren Davis, LMT

self - LMT

El Paso, TX

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Shelby Betancourt

Self LMT

Amarillo, TX

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Lisa Rabedeau
self employed LMT
San Antonio, TX

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Rhonda Briel

Licensed Massage Therapist

Wimberley, TX

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Amy Suriz, LMT

AMTA member

Alice, TX

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Daniela Pingel

licensed massage therapist in Texas

Fort Worth, TX

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LONMONTRE WASHINGTON

Self/ LMT massage therapy

Fort Worth, TX

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Cathy Crate
Self
LA PORTE, TX

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John Ley, LMT
Self
Addison, TX

Not practical... vote against!

John Barrera, Licensed Massage Therapist
American Massage Therapy Association
Corpus Christi, TX

I am opposed to HB 2134 as we are already Licensed and Regulated by the TLDR. This Bill, if passed will imposed both financial and administrative hardship on both the Massage Therapist and the cities that they practice Massage Therapy in.
Sincerely, John D Barrera

Angela Piccione

Self / Licensed Massage Therapist

Austin, TX

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Jennifer Stoudt, License massage therapist

Self, Small business owner, license massage therapist and birth doula

Corsicana, TX

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Rhonda Perdew, Licensed Massage Therapist

Self /Licensed Massage Therapist

North Richland Hills, TX

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Daniela Ruiz-Solis

Self, LICENSED MASSAGE THERAPIST

Rio Grande City, TX

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Patricia Marble, Licensed massage therapist

Pat Marble LMT

New caney, TX

I work for myself and travel to different locations and cities. I do not make much profit. Passing this bill would help put me out of business.

Kimberly Rust

Hands On Approach School of Massage and Spa

Carrollton, TX

I am opposed to HB 2134 which if passed would not regulate or stop unlicensed and illicit operations. I have been a Massage Therapist and Instructor for 24 years. My husband and I own and operate Hands On Approach School of Massage and Spa in Dallas and Corpus Christi. I have been actively involved in the legislative process regarding Massage Therapy for over 24 years. The Massage Therapy industry is heavily regulated in Texas already. Many of these have been passed over the years to regulate the bad actors who are not actually practicing massage and are committing crimes under the guise of providing massage services. Law enforcement has been given many tools to regulate this and can enter any facility to enforce our occupation code according to Sec. 455.353. Each of our schools has a license. I have a Massage Therapist license. Both of our Massage Establishments have licenses to operate. I also have to have a license to teach Massage Therapy. Between us my husband and I have to maintain 8 different licenses to operate 2 locations of a business in Texas.

We have hundreds of rules from TDLR that we have to keep up and follow of which dozens are about potential illicit practices how to dress etc. I have been fingerprinted and am submitted for a federal and local background check with each renewal. I am required to complete 12 continuing education hours and mandatory Human Trafficking course with each renewal.

Allowing a city to also have additional requirements to regulate already licensed Massage Establishments would be a burden on existing business, confusing as individual cities could have rules in conflict with TDLR, costly by requiring additional fees like permit fees to operate in addition to the licensing fees I already pay, these rules could be different from city to city and literally my location in Dallas could have different fees or closing times than my location in Corpus Christi.

Many parts of the bill seem vague with unclear repercussions and outcomes for Licensed Massage Establishments. Who will enforce it? How will Licensed Massage Establishments be protected from excessive fees and abuse from cities? How much will the permits be? If I get a fine for a minor infraction from TDLR will this be enough to trigger further action by a city even when we have already faced a consequence since we would have been sanctioned? This bill will lead again to our industry facing a myriad of rules and regulations in addition to the rules established by our regulatory agency and eliminate years of progress.

We do not need more local regulations for Licensed Massage Therapists and Establishments. We need to be allowed to operate under the laws and rules duly set by the State of Texas and our regulatory agency TDLR. This bill will only add to the confusion and make it harder to operate licensed and already well regulated Massage Therapists and Establishments. It will not stop the criminals because they are criminals not Massage Therapists.

Shelbi Wakefield, Massage Therapist

Massage Therapist

Lubbock, TX

I am opposed to HB2134. This bill does not stop unlicensed therapists from working, but rather makes it more difficult for those who work and pay their taxes legally.

Mark Lumpkin, PhD, LMT, LMTI

Reeves County Recreation Center

Pecos, TX

BILL #2134 Is RIDICULOUS > THIS is absolutely UNNECESSARY >!!!!!!! DO NOT PASS THIS Bill and do not consider this unneeded and cumbersome addition to our current STATE LISCENSE > Sincerely, Dr. Mark B. Lumpkin

Erica Rose
Self
Forney, TX

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Patricia Brown

Self, Licensed Massage Therapist and former massage establishment owner

Plano, TX

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Laura Jakopak, Massage Therapist

Self Massage Therapist

Austin, TX

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Melissa Ahlsted

self, Licensed Massage Therapist LMT CMLDT

CROWLEY, TX

I strongly oppose requiring licensed massage therapists to be licensed in EVERY city they may work. I live in Crowley, work in Burleson and also in Fort Worth. This would be a huge setback for licensed practitioners in time and expense. I passed state requirements, keep current with my license, satisfy CEUs and uphold highest standards for those of us LICENSED already in the massage therapy field. This house bill is punitive, for all of us who are in good standing and support LICENSED therapists across Texas. Please, do not go forward with this overstepping proposal. It would negatively impact all of us who are representing LICENSED therapists for the good of community.

Susan Walker, Ms

Massage therapy

Arlington, TX

I don't know why the state and its representatives contributes to make obtuse and ridiculous rules and regulations for massage therapy. By requiring therapists to register in each city is idiotic at best. It does NOTHING to curb sex or human trafficking. Stop criminalizing massage therapists. We're already on a federal criminal list. You got us without due process and that is in fact unconstitutional. I believe this proposed bill is in fact unconstitutional. I don't know what other medical profession or business that gets treated like this. A state license is sufficient enough to maintain regulations given by the state. You already have simple and clear cut rules for massage therapists about issues such as these. You might think you're going after sex trafficking but you're actually making it difficult by creating more redundant rules that you impose on massage industry. Why don't you go to the root of the cause and stop grand standing making the public think you're doing something more worthy. This is why massage therapists are leaving the state or retiring over idiotic rules.

John Faust, Licensed Massage Therapist

Self

Houston, TX

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Lamar Davis

License Massage Therapist

Pearland, TX

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Jacob Miller

Self

NORTH RICHLAND HILLS, TX

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Elena Childers, LMT

Self

Prosper, TX

I'm Licensed Massage Therapist. I am against of this idea, because it complicates life only for law-abiding specialists. Those who practice illegally will not even know that this bill has been passed. I am working in several cities in Texas and it will take a lot of effort to get permission to practice there. I already have a very difficult and physically exhausting job, do not complicate it even more.

Cheryl Peter

Self

WACO, TX

Pick local licensing or state licensing. Forcing law-abiding, legitimately licensed massage therapists to spend extra money on licenses for each city or town they work in, is not the answer to any illegal or illicit activity. If we are to be licensed by every municipality we work in, what is the point of TDLR issuing licenses? This does not ensure that massage therapists are any more competent or any establishment is any more legal. I believe it will lead to more people practicing without state licensing.

Nick Hadl
Hadl Clinical bodywork
FORT WORTH, TX

Opposed. Check California for reasons why state of Texas will no longer legally be able to charge fees for massage licensure.

Melanie Thornton
Massage Therapist
Dripping Springs, TX

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Elizabeth Walkewicz
Self Licensed Massage Therapist
Round Rock, TX

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Leah Harper
Massage therapist
Hewitt, TX

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Sheri Suprobo, LMT

Massage therapy

Marlin, TX

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Eo Lee

Yourself - Future LMT

Eules, TX

As a future licensed massage therapist, I do not support this bill.

It is creating additional obstacles for current and future massage therapists, especially those who are traveling/mobile therapists. This creates additional expenses and paperwork for us, and would not appeal to future generations of massage therapy students.

Rebekah Evans
Self
San Antonio, TX

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Lorrie Atkinson, LMT
AMTA
Princeton, TX

Please do not limit LMT's to be licensed in each city or county in Texas.

Nickol Robinson

Self LMT

Houston, TX

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Courtnie Welch

Cambridge Spa Group

New Braunfels, TX

I do not agree!!!

Kimberly Hale, Licensed Massage Therapist

Self

Nevada, TX

Opposed to HB2134

Ariana Goolsby, Business Owner

Self

Austin, TX

I am immensely opposed to this bill!!! TDLR already has the strictest licensing requirements almost anywhere in the US. As a recent massage therapy graduate, my goal is to open my own business as a mobile therapist so I can work with special populations for whom getting to a therapy session is too difficult. This bill will require me to pay fees and get extra licenses/permits in every city I may wish to travel to in order to help people who are home bound or unable to leave their care facility due to mobility, memory, or (non-contagious) illness. As a military spouse, every time we relocate I will have extra paperwork and unknown rules set upon me by this bill, on top of already confusing local ordinances that sometimes allow me to take clients for therapy in my home, and sometimes do not.

The sad truth is that rules and laws don't stop the creeps using massage as a cover or code word for sex work. Wel that is not me! I am a health care professional and a self-respecting woman, and I make every effort to disassociate myself and this career I want to go into with that misconception. Please do not make it that much harder for me to make a living helping people with their pain and stress and neuromuscular dysfunctions because of bad actors. This is no different than gun control efforts, where the criminals ignore the rules, but hard working and honest people like me get beaten up by more and more rules and fees to practice legitimate trades by idiot politicians like the person sponsoring this bill. They must have no real world experience to understand how these silly bills they come up with are going to actually play out, because it only winds up hurting good people.

DO NOT PASS THIS BILL. It's so vaguely worded and burdensome. Please do not waste the \$10k and the last 6.5 months of my life spent learning anatomy, physiology, kinesiology, pathology, modality, assessment, therapeutic practices, and ethics beyond what even doctors and nurses are required to learn in such a short time frame!! I want to help people live better lives, not spend more time learning even more rules and requirements than the People's Republic of China just to provide healing therapies. I can't believe I moved to Texas to have to fight bills like this. I thought I was moving to a state that supported American freedom. I'm so upset y'all are trying to make it so hard on me!!

Peggy Lamb

Peggy Lamb/Massage Publications

AUSTIN, TX

I am opposed to HB2134, which if passed would not regulate or stop unlicensed and illicit operations purporting to offer massage services. The tools are already available because these are illegal businesses. They are criminals already according to Texas law, whether licensed or not. Human Trafficking, prostitution, and practicing massage without a license are crimes by definition.

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Kylie Kaluza

Self- Licensed massage therapist

West, TX

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Christopher Pagach, Licensed Massage Therapist

Self

Spring, TX

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Kimberly Means, LMT (Licensed Massage Therapist)

Self. Occupation: Licensed Massage Therapist

Waco, TX

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Chris Bonnette II, LMT
Self, Massage Therapist
Galveston, TX

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Laronda Frost
LMTs
DESOTO, TX

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Norma Hernandez

Self

Fort worth, TX

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Kathleen Mazy

Texas Massage Academy

BROWNWOOD, TX

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Loretta Sandresky, Licensed massage therapist

SELF

Sugar land, TX

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Tiffany Hoffman

Self - Massage Therapist

Austin, TX

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Amanda Rodriguez
Licensed massage therapist
Rockport, TX

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Jennette Cruz

Self, Licensed Massage Therapist

DEL RIO, TX

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candra adams

Self

San Marcos, TX

This bill hurts massage therapists! We already go through so much to maintain licensure, and this bill will do nothing to change problems with prostitution/trafficking.

What is WILL do is add another expense for hard working therapists that work in different places, as many of us do!!

I am in full support for the cessation of human trafficking, prostitution, and the illegal practice of massage. However, HB2134 does not provide the means to effectively stop these illegal activities. Massage therapists and massage establishments are already registered with TDLR. If an establishment or practitioner is not licensed, this can be easily verified against the TDLR's registry. Adding an additional registration step at the city / county level would not further help local law enforcement determine the legal status of the establishment / practitioner; and would only put more of a burden on the law-abiding practitioners to complete additional steps and pay additional dues. Furthermore, HB2134 would put an undue burden on the local governments to track, monitor, and credential these establishments / providers - departments that are already overworked and underfunded. So I'm resoundingly against HB2134. Other options should be considered including: pulling a google map search of any place listing "massage" in the name / description and comparing that to the TRDL registry, or unannounced site visits / audits to these locations to review establishment credentials and provider licensure that are required to be posted for public review. Thank you so much for listening to my comments; I trust you will conscientiously proceed with voting NO to HB2134, and employing other solutions & best practices to end human trafficking, prostitution, and the illegal practice of massage.

Vanessa Huffman, Dr.

Self

Austin, TX

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Ashley Clark

Self - Licensed Massage Therapist. Licensed Massage Therapy Instructor

Mesquite, TX

There is a copy and paste letter I could send that you'll likely be receiving from hundreds of other massage therapists. I agree with the suggested verbiage supplied to us by the Texas Chapter of the American Massage Therapy Association.

Rather than repeat that form letter to you, I'd like to speak to you from a personal perspective. This proposed law makes me angry. We (LMTs) are educated, tested, and screened by the state for the work that we do.

This proposal feels punitive because it will hinder law-abiding, license-carrying therapists with more red tape and additional expenses, particularly for those who work in several cities in a metroplex like DFW.

It will do nothing to fight trafficking. It will not prevent prostitution. Those things are already illegal and still being done.

I implore you to reconsider moving forward with this bill, and to use your creativity and outside-of-the-box thinking to develop and implement methods of crime-fighting that are not to the detriment of professionals in the business of caring for others.

Bill Russell, Licensed Massage Therapist
American Massage Therapy Association AMTA
Weatherford, TX

As a Licensed Massage Therapist, I operate a mobile clinic whereby I go to the Client's home to perform therapy. I live in a suburb of Fort Worth and travel into all the various cities of Tarrant, Dallas, and Parker Counties. If this bill were to go through, it would require me to be licensed in 27 different municipalities throughout north Texas. Please be more reasonable when considering this bill. Thank you! Sincerely, Bill Russell LMT TDLR Lic: MT137402

Melia Gentry, LMT
Self
Whitesboro, TX

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Branden McGuire

LMT

Hondo, TX

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Kinsley Sinclair-Hankins, Licensed Massage Therapist

Self

Austin, TX

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Josue Rainwater

Self - Licensed Massage Therapist

El Paso, TX

As a licensed Massage Therapist working for a legitimate business, I do not believe that out hours of operation should be restricted by local officials. Given that a majority of our clients come to us after their regular work hours 9-5. Also being that we are already regulated by the TDLR, it would be redundant to to have us be required to be registered at a local level.

Kendra Ballard, Licensed Massage Therapist

Self

Katy, TX

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Concepcion Najera

Self

El Paso, TX

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Kelly Severin, License Massage Therapist

Self

Houston, TX

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Cheryl Peter
Self
WACO, TX

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Tanya Cowart
Tanya Cowart LMT
Lumberton, TX

I, a LMT myself do not agree with the bill to make all Massage Therapist get licensed in every city/town that we work in. For traveling therapist, this is totally ridiculous. If it is done district wise, it may be more suitable for them. This bill needs to be re-thought and seriously reconsidered and put yourselves in their situation before you punish the therapist and likely reduce our population of therapist even further.

Roxanne Childers
Hands On Approach
Corpus Christi, TX

Passing this bill would be detrimental to the field of massage therapy. I work at a massage school. Many of our students request financial aid, anything to help shoulder the costs of attending school. They are from all walks of life. Single parents, people starting over, people looking for direction, people wanting to promote well being. Asking future therapists to pay for tuition, the state test, fingerprinting and the cost of school supplies is enough.

Imagine getting your license to practice massage. You have made a deal to rent a space to practice. Now you need to furnish and supply your space. You'll need a massage table and chair, sheets, towels, oils, lamps, relaxing music, a towel warmer. You'll need to supply detergent, bleach and sanitizing products to keep your clients safe. This is a costly investment.

Now imagine every city requiring more money from you. Every city, not just the state! Please stop punishing your hard working citizens with unnecessary bills that will be detrimental in the long run.

Thank you

Catherine Cloft, LMT
self, LMT
Dallas, TX

This bill will put an undue burden on massage therapists. We frequently provide outcall services to different cities and do not know in advance. It will create additional cost and burden to massage therapists. Please do not pass this bill. It will also cause an undue burden on political subdivisions. We help Texans and are appropriately regulated and licensed through TDLR. Thank you kindly in advance for your help by not passing this legislation.

Ed Buresh, Mr
Self, massage therapist, massage therapy instructor
Johnson City, TX

As a massage therapist licensed since 1995 I am opposed to HB 2134.

Texas (TDLR) already regulates massage more restrictively than any state in the U.S. and is a model for that effort. I pay licensing fees to practice massage therapy in Texas, and am subject to regular and unannounced inspections and fines for not following the laws and rules as mandated. As a professional, I have to follow hundreds of rules for the regulation of Massage Therapists and Massage Establishments, or be potentially fined, or have my license revoked. Dozens of the rules are just about illicit practices. I must be fingerprinted and go through a criminal background check prior to licensing and upon each renewal and am required to complete 12 continuing education hours and a mandatory Human Trafficking course with each license renewal. As a Massage Therapist if I operate a Massage Establishment another separate license is required. Allowing a city to also have requirements to regulate massage businesses would be a burden on existing businesses, confusing as individual cities could have rules in conflict with TDLR, and costly by requiring additional fees like permit fees to operate in addition to the licensing fees I already pay, these rules may be different from city to city where I practice Massage Therapy or operate a Massage Establishment. A Massage Establishment owner who has businesses in multiple cities will have to navigate an already challenging path and could literally have different closing times in different cities for the same business type. Cities already have the ability to send in their police departments and inspect my business at any time to see if I am in violation of Chapter 455. If the business is not licensed for example as a reflexology or Thai Massage business with TDLR, the city can regulate those business types any way they choose as they do not fall under TDLR purview. We do not need more regulations for licensed massage therapists and establishments. We need to be protected from cities mandating additional requirements to operate already licensed and well-regulated Massage Therapists and Massage Establishments. In addition, this bill is vague and unenforceable with unclear repercussions and outcomes for Licensed Massage Establishments, and doesn't answer who will ultimately enforce this law and how will cities enforce it and be stopped from ultimately abusing it to keep legitimate businesses out of their city.

Brandee Vasquez
Self-LICENSED Massage Therapist Renewing
Mesquite, TX

Restrictions placed against LMTs

have more restrictive rules, including city-by-city licenses, is prejudicial and unnecessary. This will not address the issue of human trafficking and illegal prostitution

Adelyn Botto

Sel/ Licensed Massage Therapist

AUSTIN, TX

I am opposed to HB2134, which if passed would not regulate or stop unlicensed and illicit operations purporting to offer massage services. The tools are already available because these are illegal businesses. They are criminals already according to Texas law, whether licensed or not. Human Trafficking, prostitution, and practicing massage without a license are crimes by definition.

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Anastasia Wilkins

Self Licensed Massage Therapist

Houston, TX

Highly against this.

Joseph Ramirez

Self/Licensed Massage Therapist

AUSTIN, TX

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Christopher Bell
Self, Massage Therapist.
Dallas, TX

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Dreau Lanpher, LMT (Licensed Massage Therapist)
SELF/Licensed Massage Therapist
Ballinger, TX

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Vivian Hall
Self
Houston, TX

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Pamela Brewer
self
Austin, TX

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Lanisha Kidd, LMT
LMT's of Houston/self
Houston, TX

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Rebeca Urdaneta

Self - Licensed Massage Therapist

Brownwood, TX

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LMT #131185

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Carmen Buckalew

self/ LMT

Mesquite, TX

I am against this since it brings another expense for LMT'S. We have to renew our license every two years, Finger prints, CE Classes, insurance ,stock, equipment, etc. Just because of some 'Massage Parlors' and ' Unlicensed Personnel' claiming to be therapist, we honest LMT's have to pay the price. Those that travel for their jobs will have to stop because of all the added expense not to speak of more forms to fill out, follow up on and pray it wasn't lost again in the shuffle. We deal with enough just to keep going and be present to serve our clients, we don't need another reason to add on as to what we need to keep up with and update during our career.

Regards,

C.M.Buckalew

Nancy Mays

Self, Licensed Massage Therapist

Dallas, TX

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Maria Galvan, Massage Therapy

CSG

San Elizario, TX

Im against it because massage therapy is my only certification, and I need the money to survive.

Diane Clark

Self, Retired

Mesquite, TX

Requesting that our State Representatives vote "No" on HB2134 which would require LMTs to register with local municipalities. They are already licensed and screened by the state. They pay for professional insurance. Many therapists, especially travelling therapists, work in several cities. This creates unnecessary paperwork and expense for therapists and cities.

Just Me

Self ,Myofacial release

Plano, TX

I have insurance for massage therapy.

Cpr

Continuing education

License fees. All required already.

Human trafficking.

Abuse and neglect.

The list goes on. None of those things are cheap or free for the time it takes to practice massage therapy

Tom Darilek

Self; and American Massage Therapy Association Texas Chapter; and my Licensed Massage Establishment, Seize the Day Massage.

Kyle, TX

I am opposed to HB2134, which if passed would not regulate or stop unlicensed and illicit operations purporting to offer massage services. The tools are already available because these are illegal businesses. They are criminals already according to Texas law, whether licensed or not. Human Trafficking, prostitution, and practicing massage without a license are crimes by definition.

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Thank you for your time & consideration.

Tom Darilek, LMT, MTL, CEP

Victoria Pennock

Moon & Star Massage/Keep Austin Massaged

Austin, TX

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Barbara Kay Merz
Self/Licensed Massage Therapist
Arlington, TX

I am in full support for the cessation of human trafficking, prostitution, and the illegal practice of Massage Therapy. I vote No to HB2134.

Erin Singleton, LMT
self/licensed massage therapist
Garland, TX

This is absolutely baffling. What good thing is this supposed to do? If someone introduced this because they believe Texas state standards for licensing are not high enough or if this is meant to affect people who are already doing illegal or illegitimate practices then this would be a ridiculous way to address that. This would only hurt the individual and most vulnerable of hard-working and legit Texas massage therapists. It's common that massage establishment have their LMTs sign a non-compete agreement which (whether enforceable or not) threatens legal action if they are within a certain radius. If someone leaves a predatory workplace or is unexpectedly fired they might find themselves without good options to support themselves and work in the short term. They would be waiting on the city government before they could be employed (without threat of legal action) and would probably need to rely on unemployment insurance instead of working. Here are legitimate situations this would make illegal: A massage therapist would not be able to go to the nearby home of a temporarily disabled or injured client to provide any doctor-prescribed myofascial release indicated for their condition. They may not be able to volunteer at a charity event down their street. Chiropractors, spas, and physical therapy offices would be unable to quickly replace any LMT who called in sick or went on short term disability. Mobile massage services of any kind would become untenable including medical massage provided for those with disabilities and special needs. Small towns could find themselves without any LMTs when there is already a limited number statewide. As an additional situation, I have a home office where I do Zoom calls for intake purposes and where I do my paperwork and records. Would LMTs like me need to have separate city licenses for situations that? Do I need to be licensed in the city that the other person on that Zoom call is in? Those are the sort of questions and situations that are going to clog city office lines and create unnecessary work for Texas city offices. There is already a backlog and long wait times for the processing of state license applications. This would only affect legitimate, legal massage therapists and already overworked city employees. This appears to be an ill-conceived attempt at addressing actions by people who are already breaking existing laws and regulations. There is no problem this addresses and there are many, many problems this would create.

Heather Balmos, LMT

Massage therapists

Lorena, TX

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Texas (TDLR) already regulates me more restrictively than any state in the U.S. and is a model for that effort. I pay licensing fees to practice massage therapy in Texas, and am subject to regular and unannounced inspections and fines for not following the laws and rules as mandated. As a professional, I have to follow hundreds of rules for the regulation of Massage Therapists and Massage Establishments, or be potentially fined, or have my license revoked. Dozens of the rules are just about illicit practices. I must be fingerprinted and go through a criminal background check prior to licensing and upon each renewal and am required to complete 12 continuing education hours and a mandatory Human Trafficking course with each license renewal. As a Massage Therapist if I operate a Massage Establishment another separate license is required. Allowing a city to also have requirements to regulate massage businesses would be a burden on existing businesses, confusing as individual cities could have rules in conflict with TDLR, and costly by requiring additional fees like permit fees to operate in addition to the licensing fees I already pay, these rules may be different from city to city where I practice Massage Therapy or operate a Massage Establishment. A Massage Establishment owner who has businesses in multiple cities will have to navigate an already challenging path and could literally have different closing times in different cities for the same business type. Cities already have the ability to send in their police departments and inspect my business at any time to see if I am in violation of Chapter 455. If the business is not licensed for example as a reflexology or Thai Massage business with TDLR, the city can regulate those business types any way they choose as they do not fall under TDLR purview. We do not need more regulations for licensed massage therapists and establishments. We need to be protected from cities mandating additional requirements to operate already licensed and well-regulated Massage Therapists and Massage Establishments. In addition, this bill is vague and unenforceable with unclear repercussions and outcomes for Licensed Massage Establishments, and doesn't answer who will ultimately enforce this law and how will cities enforce it and be stopped from ultimately abusing it to keep legitimate businesses out of their city.

Cities have the tool for law enforcement as stated

Sec. 455.353. ENFORCEMENT BY PEACE OFFICERS. A peace officer of this state, including a peace officer employed by a political subdivision of the state, may enforce this chapter.

Heather Stevens
Self - Massage therapist
Copperas Cove, TX

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Sec. 455.353. ENFORCEMENT BY PEACE OFFICERS

Danielle Evans
My self a Licensed Massage Therapist
Austin, TX

I am opposed to HB2134 because if passed it would do nothing to stop, slow, or regulate any illegal or illicit operations posing as offering massage therapy.

There are already laws in place to convict the crimes of practicing massage therapy without a license, prostitution, human trafficking, these are criminal acts already.

Texas (TDLR) already regulates me more restrictively than any other state in the U.S. and is a model that already has efforts to stop these illicit activities without further impingement of my, a law abiding citizens rights.

Josh Foster
Self/Business Manager
Mesquite, TX

I am opposed to HB2134, which if passed would not regulate or stop unlicensed and illicit operations purporting to offer massage services. The tools are already available because these are illegal businesses. They are criminals already according to Texas law, whether licensed or not. Human Trafficking, prostitution, and practicing massage without a license are crimes by definition.

Amy Jo Klepac

Self, Licensed Massage Therapist

Coupland, TX

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Megan Mendes

Self/Independent Massage Therapist

Pflugerville, TX

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Michael Graffeo, LMT
Self, Licensed Massage Therapist
Richardson, TX

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Connor Dent, LMT
Self - Licensed Massage Therapist & Sole Proprietor
Austin, TX

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Bridgette Horak
Self/licensed massage therapist
Wylie, TX

I am already licensed through the state of Texas.

Karen Franco-beltran, LMT

Massage therapy

Dallas, TX

I am opposed to HB2134, which if passed would not regulate or stop unlicensed and illicit operations purporting to offer massage services. The tools are already available because these are illegal businesses. They are criminals already according to Texas law, whether licensed or not. Human Trafficking, prostitution, and practicing massage without a license are crimes by definition.

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Vinh Trinh
self
Houston, TX

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Emily Andry, Lmt
Self
San Antonio, TX

I am in full support for the cessation of human trafficking, prostitution, and the illegal practice of massage. However, HB2134 does not provide the means to effectively stop these illegal activities. Massage therapists and massage establishments are already registered with TDLR. If an establishment or practitioner is not licensed, this can be easily verified against the TDLR's registry. Adding an additional registration step at the city / county level would not further help local law enforcement determine the legal status of the establishment / practitioner; and would only put more of a burden on the law-abiding practitioners to complete additional steps and pay additional dues. Furthermore, HB2134 would put an undue burden on the local governments to track, monitor, and credential these establishments / providers - departments that are already overworked and underfunded. So I'm resoundingly against HB2134. Other options should be considered including: pulling a google map search of any place listing "massage" in the name / description and comparing that to the TRDL registry, or unannounced site visits / audits to these locations to review establishment credentials and provider licensure that are required to be posted for public review. Thank you so much for listening to my comments; I trust you will conscientiously proceed with voting NO to HB2134, and employing other solutions & best practices to end human trafficking, prostitution, and the illegal practice of massage.

Andrea Sykes
Self and Massage Therapy
Austin, TX

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OPTION 2:

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Steve Johnson, LMT
Self / Licensed Massage Therapist
Wylie, TX

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Patsy Pleasant, LMT
self/Licensed Massage Therapist
Flower Mound, TX

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My particular business requires me to provide massage to clients with different disabilities in their homes. I travel to various cities in order to do this as well as my ten contractors. The state pays a set rate for these services and having extra expenses along with the elevated gasoline prices and inflation will make it cost prohibitive to continue. Please think about how this will affect those of us providing services for this population. It is already very difficult to find massage therapists willing to provide services with all the expenses involved

Kathleen Horner
Massage by Kathleen
La Vernia, TX

Saddling massage therapists with additional licensing requirements is absurd. You're also asking multiple justifications to take on additional 'policing' that many cities/counties are not prepared to handle. You're opening our career up to possible inspections from unqualified persons that don't know the actual laws governing our career which could create hardships for massage therapists state wide. It's my opinion this house bill is an unnecessary endeavor.

Rebecca Kruse
Massage for Special Needs
Plano, TX

I am opposed to HB2134, which if passed would not regulate or stop unlicensed and illicit operations purporting to offer massage services.

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Sally Mitchell, LMT

A Body Kneads Massage & Spa

Pasadena, TX

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Monica Hickson

Self

Addison, TX

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Casey Smith, Lmt

Self, licensed massage therapist

Austin, TX

I am in full support for the cessation of human trafficking, prostitution, and the illegal practice of massage. However, HB2134 does not provide the means to effectively stop these illegal activities. Massage therapists and massage establishments are already registered with TDLR. If an establishment or practitioner is not licensed, this can be easily verified against the TDLR's registry. Adding an additional registration step at the city / county level would not further help local law enforcement determine the legal status of the establishment / practitioner; and would only put more of a burden on the law-abiding practitioners to complete additional steps and pay additional dues. Furthermore, HB2134 would put an undue burden on the local governments to track, monitor, and credential these establishments / providers - departments that are already overworked and underfunded. So I'm resoundingly against HB2134. Other options should be considered including: pulling a google map search of any place listing "massage" in the name / description and comparing that to the TRDL registry, or unannounced site visits / audits to these locations to review establishment credentials and provider licensure that are required to be posted for public review. Thank you so much for listening to my comments; I trust you will conscientiously proceed with voting NO to HB2134, and employing other solutions & best practices to end human trafficking, prostitution, and the illegal practice of massage.

Michaëlle Fisher, LMT

self / Licensed Massage Therapist, Licensed Massage Therapy Instructor
Irvington, TX

I am opposed to HB2134, which if passed would not regulate or stop unlicensed and illicit operations purporting to offer massage services. The tools are already available because these are illegal businesses. They are criminals already according to Texas law, whether licensed or not. Human Trafficking, prostitution, and practicing massage without a license are crimes by definition.

Texas (TDLR) already regulates me more restrictively than any state in the U.S. and is a model for that effort. I pay licensing fees to practice massage therapy in Texas, and am subject to regular and unannounced inspections and fines for not following the laws and rules as mandated. As a professional, I have to follow hundreds of rules for the regulation of Massage Therapists and Massage Establishments, or be potentially fined, or have my license revoked. Dozens of the rules are just about illicit practices. I must be fingerprinted and go through a criminal background check prior to licensing and upon each renewal and am required to complete 12 continuing education hours and a mandatory Human Trafficking course with each license renewal. As a Massage Therapist if I operate a Massage Establishment another separate license is required. Allowing a city to also have requirements to regulate massage businesses would be a burden on existing businesses, confusing as individual cities could have rules in conflict with TDLR, and costly by requiring additional fees like permit fees to operate in addition to the licensing fees I already pay, these rules may be different from city to city where I practice Massage Therapy or operate a Massage Establishment. A Massage Establishment owner who has businesses in multiple cities will have to navigate an already challenging path and could literally have different closing times in different cities for the same business type. Cities already have the ability to send in their police departments and inspect my business at any time to see if I am in violation of Chapter 455. If the business is not licensed for example as a reflexology or Thai Massage business with TDLR, the city can regulate those business types any way they choose as they do not fall under TDLR purview. We do not need more regulations for licensed massage therapists and establishments. We need to be protected from cities mandating additional requirements to operate already licensed and well-regulated Massage Therapists and Massage Establishments. In addition, this bill is vague and unenforceable with unclear repercussions and outcomes for Licensed Massage Establishments, and doesn't answer who will ultimately enforce this law and how will cities enforce it and be stopped from ultimately abusing it to keep legitimate businesses out of their city.

Cities have the tool for law enforcement as stated

Sec. 455.353. ENFORCEMENT BY PEACE OFFICERS. A peace officer of this state, including a peace officer employed by a political subdivision of the state, may enforce this chapter.

Janine Ploetz

Self

Red Rock, TX

I am opposed to the passing of this bill. I believe that one state license is regulation enough for licensed massage therapists, and more licensure would not improve the practice of massage in one political subdivision and another. LMTs who are willing to provide their professional and licensed services in more than one political subdivision would not be better supported by being required to have more than one license. This bill would not stop nor regulate illegal and unlicensed practices.

Christina Noordermeer

elevate massage

carrollton, TX

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Calvin Drake, LMT

Self / Licensed Massage Therapist

Richardson, TX

I am opposed to HB2134, which if passed would not regulate or stop unlicensed and illicit operations purporting to offer massage services. The tools are already available because these are illegal businesses. They are criminals already according to Texas law, whether licensed or not. Human Trafficking, prostitution, and practicing massage without a license are crimes by definition.

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Asenath Avinash
WorkWell Austin
Austin, TX

OPTION 2:

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Matthew Schindel
Self, Massage Therapy
Austin, TX

This bill represents excessive regulation and government overreach. All this would do is pressure us with extra fees and license renewal dates. We're already thoroughly overseen by TDLR and FSMTB. How would every city in Texas maintain the data infrastructure to ensure our licensure? It's unfeasible.

Jill Stayer
Self / Licensed Massage Therapist
Godley, TX

This would make my job as an independent contractor very difficult as I work in multiple towns/areas. Please do not pass this bill. We are already governed by the state and fulfill our requirements according to the law.

Jonathan Yera, LMT

Self

Austin, TX

I am in full support for the cessation of human trafficking, prostitution, and the illegal practice of massage. However, HB2134 does not provide the means to effectively stop these illegal activities. Massage therapists and massage establishments are already registered with TDLR. If an establishment or practitioner is not licensed, this can be easily verified against the TDLR's registry. Adding an additional registration step at the city / county level would not further help local law enforcement determine the legal status of the establishment / practitioner; and would only put more of a burden on the law-abiding practitioners to complete additional steps and pay additional dues. Furthermore, HB2134 would put an undue burden on the local governments to track, monitor, and credential these establishments / providers - departments that are already overworked and underfunded. So I'm resoundingly against HB2134. Other options should be considered including: pulling a google map search of any place listing "massage" in the name / description and comparing that to the TRDL registry, or unannounced site visits / audits to these locations to review establishment credentials and provider licensure that are required to be posted for public review. Thank you so much for listening to my comments; I trust you will conscientiously proceed with voting NO to HB2134, and employing other solutions & best practices to end human trafficking, prostitution, and the illegal practice of massage.

Patricia Escobedo, Licensed Massage Therapist

Self-Massage Therapist for special needs in multiple cities

Grand Prairie, TX

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Andrea Cutshall, LMT

Self

Dallas, TX

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Ryan Tyler

Self

Gorman, TX

I really don't think this will work. It is going to put more work and stress on travel massage therapist. That is kinda unfair to the people that has worked so hard to get their license. I hope y'all will really reconsider this. I think the state test is enough.

Teresa Carpenter
Self Licensed Massage Therapist
Austin, TX

I am opposed to HB2134, which if passed would not regulate or stop unlicensed and illicit operations purporting to offer massage services. The tools are already available because these are illegal businesses. They are criminals already according to Texas law, whether licensed or not. Human Trafficking, prostitution, and practicing massage without a license are crimes by definition.

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Asya Lindzy
Myself
Cisco, TX

As an LMT, I do not support this bill!

Steven Vinet, Licensed Massage Therapist
Knot Your Problem Massage
Joshua, TX

Please vote down the further regulation of massage therapists in HB2134. The organizations that myself and other massage therapists closest to me work with, specialize in massage therapy for special needs and disabilities. Further regulation will only hurt this group of persons and cause unnecessary pain and discomfort as well as hurting small businesses.

David Ramirez Jr
Self /massage student
Corpus Christi, TX

Rachel York

Self/Licensed Massage Therapist

Cisco, TX

I strongly oppose HB 2134?? It places further, and undue, regulations and restrictions on LMTs in the state of Texas. Texas (TDLR) already regulates me more restrictively than any state in the U.S. and is a model for that effort. It also increases the clerical and financial burden of reporting to the state's resources, which could be better prioritized elsewhere.

As a professional, I have to follow hundreds of rules for the regulation of Massage Therapists and Massage Establishments, or be potentially fined, or have my license revoked. Dozens of the rules are just about illicit practices. I must be fingerprinted and go through a criminal background check prior to licensing and upon each renewal and am required to complete 12 continuing education hours and a mandatory Human Trafficking course with each license renewal. As a Massage Therapist if I operate a Massage Establishment another separate license is required. Allowing a city to also have requirements to regulate massage businesses would be a burden on existing businesses, confusing as individual cities could have rules in conflict with TDLR, and costly by requiring additional fees like permit fees to operate in addition to the licensing fees I already pay, these rules may be different from city to city where I practice Massage Therapy or operate a Massage Establishment. A Massage Establishment owner who has businesses in multiple cities will have to navigate an already challenging path and could literally have different closing times in different cities for the same business type.

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Regina Richroath

Self licensed massage therapist

Collinsville, TX

Why are the representatives of the state of Texas creating more rules and regulations requiring legally licensed massage therapists to follow MORE rules and regulations? Is it to obtain more money in licensing and operations fees? I am licensed by the state to work in said state and no further requirements should have to be met. I work in multiple locations, in multiple cities and travel to clients homes, why would I need to be licensed in each location? I have NEVER had any complaints with regards to my licensing or procedures reported to the state by any client and/or employer. Why then, should I have even more hurdles to jump after being licensed and following the rules since 2006? Do something to enforce the laws already on the books and stop making things more difficult for licensed ethical practitioners. As licensed professionals we provide a valuable, affordable and much needed treatment option for our clients. We, as a profession, do not engage in illicit practices, stop punishing us for the crimes of those who do. We have every right to earn a living in our chosen profession without constant changes in state laws.

PAMELA SUNDIN-HART, MA, LMT

Self/LMT

CORPUS CHRISTI, TX

I am opposed to HB2134, which if passed would not regulate or stop unlicensed and illicit operations purporting to offer massage services. The tools are already available because these are illegal businesses. They are criminals already according to Texas law, whether licensed or not. Human Trafficking, prostitution, and practicing massage without a license are crimes by definition.

Texas (TDLR) already regulates me more restrictively than any state in the U.S. and is a model for that effort. I pay licensing fees to practice massage therapy in Texas, and am subject to regular and unannounced inspections and fines for not following the laws and rules as mandated. As a professional, I have to follow hundreds of rules for the regulation of Massage Therapists and Massage Establishments, or be potentially fined, or have my license revoked. Dozens of the rules are just about illicit practices. I must be fingerprinted and go through a criminal background check prior to licensing and upon each renewal and am required to complete 12 continuing education hours and a mandatory Human Trafficking course with each license renewal. As a Massage Therapist if I operate a Massage Establishment another separate license is required. Allowing a city to also have requirements to regulate massage businesses would be a burden on existing businesses, confusing as individual cities could have rules in conflict with TDLR, and costly by requiring additional fees like permit fees to operate in addition to the licensing fees I already pay, these rules may be different from city to city where I practice Massage Therapy or operate a Massage Establishment. A Massage Establishment owner who has businesses in multiple cities will have to navigate an already challenging path and could literally have different closing times in different cities for the same business type. Cities already have the ability to send in their police departments and inspect my business at any time to see if I am in violation of Chapter 455. If the business is not licensed for example as a reflexology or Thai Massage business with TDLR, the city can regulate those business types any way they choose as they do not fall under TDLR purview. We do not need more regulations for licensed massage therapists and establishments. We need to be protected from cities mandating additional requirements to operate already licensed and well-regulated Massage Therapists and Massage Establishments. In addition, this bill is vague and unenforceable with unclear repercussions and outcomes for Licensed Massage Establishments, and doesn't answer who will ultimately enforce this law and how will cities enforce it and be stopped from ultimately abusing it to keep legitimate businesses out of their city.

Thank you,

Pamela Sundin-Hart, MA, LMT 134915

Rachel Snyder, LMT

Self

Austin, TX

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Laura Ybanez

Self Massage Therapist

Corpus Christi, TX

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Christa Ruiz

Self, Licensed Massage Therapist

Houston, TX

I am opposed to HB2134, which if passed would not regulate or stop unlicensed and illicit operations purporting to offer massage services. The tools are already available because these are illegal businesses. They are criminals already according to Texas law, whether licensed or not. Human Trafficking, prostitution, and practicing massage without a license are crimes by definition.

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Kelly Garcia, LMT

Self, licensed massage therapist

Fort Worth, TX

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Texas (TDLR) already regulates me more restrictively than any state in the U.S. - and is a model for that effort. - I pay licensing fees to practice massage therapy in Texas and am subject to all state requirements already. To add further requirements would only burden legitimate practicing massage therapists further. It would do this by making it one step harder to keep up with an already extensive list of licensing regulations. I work on a team of mobile and traveling massage therapists. Many of us work between several different cities to provide massage therapy to clients who legitimately have great difficulty leaving their homes due to their health conditions. We have to cover all the stress and expenses of Texas licensing, supplies, gas, set up and tear down for each and every session-- and we are happy to do so to make the lives of our clients better. We don't need any further regulations to make providing these life-changing services more difficult.

Migdalia Perez

Licensed Massage Therapist

Spring, TX

Dispel would cause unnecessary and extra hardship on massage therapist who are licensed by the state and pay the state and may not work at one establishment. I vote to not causes more financial hardship.

Anthony Toma
Self - Licensed Massage Therapist
Richardson, TX

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Cities have the tool for law enforcement as stated

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Tillie Gallardo
Self Licensed Massage Therapist
Orange grove, TX

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Rachel Watkins, Licensed Massage Therapist
Regarding Massage Therapy
Cleburne, TX

We are already regulated by the state, further regulation for each city we practice in is unneeded and an undue burden on massage therapists. While the majority of my practice is in one city, I also see clients in five area cities/towns. Having to have a license for each city and town would mean having to drop clients or ask them to come to my office location, which they cannot do. Having to go through the licensing process for every client in a neighboring city or town would be ridiculous. We are already regulated enough.

If you want to effectively stop the "shady massage parlors" there are far more effective means. All the legitimate massage therapists want them gone too, but making all the legitimate therapists hold half a dozen licenses is not the way. People who use massage therapy as a cover for prostitution are already breaking a multitude of laws, adding a few more at the expense of the multitude of good massage therapists is wrong. Enforce the laws already on the books that the shady places are breaking, don't add to the burden for those who do a great job helping people.

Tamara Scott

Self

Austin, TX

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Melissa Alderas

Self

San antonio, TX

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Lisa Speck
Massage therapist
Austin, TX

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Sophia Flores, Licensed Massage Therapist
Self Licensed Massage Therapist
San Saba, TX

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Brendan McBratney

Massage Envy - Massage Therapy Establishments & Therapists
Frisco, TX

Good Evening,

Thank you for your consideration of all parties involved in the solutions for preventing human trafficking, which is indeed a heinous crime. All of us in the industry want it eradicated and will do all we can to stop this type of criminal activity.

As written, this bill, while well-intentioned, seems to leave loose ends that could negatively impact legitimate healthcare Massage Therapy practices & Establishments as well as Licensed Massage Therapists. The code as currently exists expressly forbids any kind of illegitimate or illegal activity. The legitimate healthcare providers practicing massage therapy will work with any law enforcement & regulators to help enforce existing law to prevent illegal & illicit activity. We should be able to work within existing code & law to enforce the laws already available to prevent these crimes.

To the intent of this proposed change:

1. Are there blind spots specifically that this modification will address?
2. How can law enforcement work with existing laws & regulations to prevent human trafficking, thereby helping legitimate healthcare massage therapy thrive while deterring & eliminating criminal activity?
3. How will limiting all Massage Therapy Establishment hours prevent massage parlors from operating?
4. Does trafficking only happen during certain hours of the day?
5. Who decides which hours legitimate practices are limited to?
6. What prevents a political subdivision from completely eliminating any hours of operation for legitimate healthcare Massage Establishments & Therapists?

These are the primary questions that seem to need vetting more, as we all work to curtail and eliminate human trafficking. There are likely many more that need proper analysis & forethought to protect the thousands of legitimate healthcare workers in the Massage Therapy Industry in Texas.

Thank you for your time,

Brendan McBratney
Massage Envy Frisco North, est. 2009
Massage Envy North Texas/Oklahoma Region

Jahné Campbell
Self
SAN ANTONIO, TX

I have been a massage therapist for over a decade and i can tell you there has been no tougher time for us than these post- COVID times. The shutdown effected us first and foremost in terms of employment loss. And getting back to normal, as the government has decided to no longer supplement the effects of COVID, has been a rocky road. Adding the burden of needing to obtain more licensing throughout the state is really missing the mark. Firstly, this seems like a double taxation to me. Second, what exactly will this accomplish? Putting the burden of offsetting the costs of human trafficking in our state is unfair and biased. The city of san antonio alone budgets half its city funds to the policing of its citizens. Why isn't this covering these expenses? Punishing license holding professionals for crimes AGAINST their industry is wrong. With COVID measures still in place for government workers the bureaucracy in the execution is going to be a nightmare for everyone. I am an avidly voting citizen and i will be considering who votes yes on this prop come the election.

Traci Holley
Self, Massage Therapist
Stephenville, TX

I am against having to be licensed by the state and for each city we work in. It will create unnecessary hardship for massage tharipists, particularly those who do traveling massage therapy and work in several different cities.

Cilena Nixon

Self

Bryan, TX

Fellow Therapists, we need to take action quickly. Monday evening, our Government Relations Chair got notified that House Bill 2134 by Thimesch is going to committee at 8am on Wednesday the 29th. This bill wants LMTs to be licensed in every city in which they practice, in addition to our state licensure through TDLR. Many therapists, especially travelling therapists, work in several cities. This creates unnecessary paperwork and expense for therapists and cities. Please respond before 8am, Wednesday, March 29th.

We need everyone to respond, not just our state board. Please share with all therapists you know. Respond as yourself and list Licensed Massage Therapist as your occupation.

Below is a suggested response to HB2134, You have until 8 am March 29 to submit an online testimony to the committee. Please write in your own words if you chose, or any or all of the statements below.

<https://comments.house.texas.gov/home?c=c350>

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Rose Todora

Self/ massage therapist

Richardson, TX

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Shannon White, Licensed Massage Therapist

Self Licensed Massage Therapist

Cushing, TX

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Monica Rodriguez

Lmt

San Antonio, TX

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Bobby Hudson

Myself

WACO, TX

This do not need to pass.

This creates unnecessary paperwork and expense for therapists and cities.

Bradley Anderson

LMTs

TX - Hutto, TX

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Claire Cain, Ms

Self

Lakeway, TX

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Cities have the tool for law enforcement as stated in
Sec. 455.353. ENFORCEMENT BY PEACE OFFICERS.

Please opposed to HB2134.

Thank you.

Keri Collison

Self/ licensed massage therapist

Tyler, TX

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Marni Matyus, Licensed Massage therapist & insticto

Sole Proprietor

Garland, TX

State licensing is sufficient. Requiring additional licensing by City would cause an excessive burden and no benefit. Many of us work in multiple cities. I live in the Dallas Metropolis and have clients in at least 8 cities. Why create excess paperwork, overhead and expense? We are well regulated by our state licensing and this is in alignment with other state licensing requirements.

Darrell Wells

Licensed Massage therapist

Fort wort, TX

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Meagan Lancia
self - massage therapist
San Antonio, TX

I am opposed to HB2134, which if passed would not regulate or stop unlicensed and illicit operations purporting to offer massage services. The tools are already available because these are illegal businesses. They are criminals already according to Texas law, whether licensed or not. Human Trafficking, prostitution, and practicing massage without a license are crimes by definition. Texas (TDLR) already regulates me more restrictively than any state in the U.S. and is a model for that effort. I pay licensing fees to practice massage therapy in Texas, and am subject to regular and unannounced inspections and fines for not following the laws and rules as mandated. As a professional, I have to follow hundreds of rules for the regulation of Massage Therapists and Massage Establishments, or be potentially fined, or have my license revoked. Dozens of the rules are just about illicit practices. I must be fingerprinted and go through a criminal background check prior to licensing and upon each renewal and am required to complete 12 continuing education hours and a mandatory Human Trafficking course with each license renewal. As a Massage Therapist if I operate a Massage Establishment another separate license is required. Allowing a city to also have requirements to regulate massage businesses would be a burden on existing businesses, confusing as individual cities could have rules in conflict with TDLR, and costly by requiring additional fees like permit fees to operate in addition to the licensing fees I already pay, these rules may be different from city to city where I practice Massage Therapy or operate a Massage Establishment. A Massage Establishment owner who has businesses in multiple cities will have to navigate an already challenging path and could literally have different closing times in different cities for the same business type. Cities already have the ability to send in their police departments and inspect my business at any time to see if I am in violation of Chapter 455. If the business is not licensed for example as a reflexology or Thai Massage business with TDLR, the city can regulate those business types any way they choose as they do not fall under TDLR purview. We do not need more regulations for licensed massage therapists and establishments. We need to be protected from cities mandating additional requirements to operate already licensed and well-regulated Massage Therapists and Massage Establishments. In addition, this bill is vague and unenforceable with unclear repercussions and outcomes for Licensed Massage Establishments, and doesn't answer who will ultimately enforce this law and how will cities enforce it and be stopped from ultimately abusing it to keep legitimate businesses out of their city.

Cities have the tool for law enforcement as stated

Sec. 455.353. ENFORCEMENT BY PEACE OFFICERS. A peace officer of this state, including a peace officer employed by a political subdivision of the state, may enforce this chapter.

Julie Alexander, Massage therapist and business owner
Self, LMT
Plano, TX

Most therapists work in several cities across the state and this would be so expensive and a waste of taxpayers money and the government's time.

Tori Baker, LMT
Massage therapy
San Antonio, TX

As a massage therapist who is just starting out and looking to make a living this would restrict what I could do. If making me get a license for every city I want to work in that would require me to get more then 4+ license! I think that is ridiculous seeing as living in San Antonio i have multiple cities near me In just a small area. I think all therapists would suffer if this was passed and many would leave the field.

Theresa Lydic, Lmt

Massage envy

Taylor, TX

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La Bronaca Bradley, LMT

Self licensed massage therapist

Dallas, TX

This bill is harmful to businesses and independent contractors, like myself, who have built their business to operate mobile. This limits us and creates unnecessary problems and paperwork all around. State governing is enough, city to city is ridiculous. I hugely disagree with this bill.

Constance Escalante

Lmt self

Van Alstyne, TX

All of the bills presented for massage therapist here and very frustrating. This is a job like taking out the garbage, plumbing, or cleaning toilets. It's tough, hard physically, mentally and emotionally. Massage therapist are know to burn out and flake out. Put yourself in our shoes. We were hit ive hard by Covid have families often depending on our hours of operation and location. I've had my Lmt since 2006. Seen a lot of changes but here of late all these bills are too much. We already pay a lot to do ceus, finger prints, liscence renewals. Quit making our job harder. If you want to crack down on human trafficking look elsewhere. Porn industry only fans...Not Lmt's trying to make a career and provide for families. I've massages cancer survivors, multiple parents who have lost children, people healing from serious trauma, trauma trapped in muscular pain, arthritis, you name it. Don't make our jobs harder. If a traveling therapist has to jump through hoops it's not going to happen. Old therapist will quit no one will want to deal with the headache of opening or running a massage establishment which is the final step for many aging therapist. You should make this available for clients to pitch in. There are so many people who don't get physical touch and there is a need for massage.

Michael Keller
Self Massage Therapist
Richardson, TX

I am opposed to HB2134, which if passed would not regulate or stop unlicensed and illicit operations purporting to offer massage services. The tools are already available because these are illegal businesses. They are criminals already according to Texas law, whether licensed or not. Human Trafficking, prostitution, and practicing massage without a license are crimes by definition.

Caren Vaughn
Self. Licensed Massage Therapist
Hutto, TX

Dear LMTs of Texas- I don't typically share things like this, but we must raise our voices to prevent the undue restriction and burden HB2134 would place on our profession. This bill wants LMTs to be licensed in every city in which they practice, in addition to our state licensure through TDLR. Many therapists, especially travelling therapists, work in several cities. This creates unnecessary paperwork and expense for therapists and cities

Please share with all therapists you know.

You can use any of the statements below or edit / write your own as a response to HB2134. You have until 8 am Wed March 29 to submit an online testimony to the committee. Respond as yourself and list Licensed Massage Therapist as your occupation.

<https://comments.house.texas.gov/home?c=c350>

OPTION 1:

I am in full support for the cessation of human trafficking, prostitution, and the illegal practice of massage. However, HB2134 does not provide the means to effectively stop these illegal activities. Massage therapists and massage establishments are already registered with TDLR. If an establishment or practitioner is not licensed, this can be easily verified against the TDLR's registry. Adding an additional registration step at the city / county level would not further help local law enforcement determine the legal status of the establishment / practitioner; and would only put more of a burden on the law-abiding practitioners to complete additional steps and pay additional dues. Furthermore, HB2134 would put an undue burden on the local governments to track, monitor, and credential these establishments / providers - departments that are already overworked and underfunded. So I'm resoundingly against HB2134. Other options should be considered including: pulling a google map search of any place listing "massage" in the name / description and comparing that to the TRDL registry, or unannounced site visits / audits to these locations to review establishment credentials and provider licensure that are required to be posted for public review. Thank you so much for listening to my comments; I trust you will conscientiously proceed with voting NO to HB2134, and employing other solutions & best practices to end human trafficking, prostitution, and the illegal practice of massage.

Celena Hargrove
self LMT
Richardson, TX

This isn't necessary if we are already required by state to be licensed. State over rules city. Not only that but a lot of therapists work in multiple cities so you are putting an extra hardship on them to provide for themselves and their family!!!!

Yvette Ward
Massage Therapist
Dallas, TX

I am opposed to HB2134, which if passed would not regulate or stop unlicensed and illicit operations purporting to offer massage services. The tools are already available because these are illegal businesses. They are criminals already according to Texas law, whether licensed or not. Human Trafficking, prostitution, and practicing massage without a license are crimes by definition.

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Sarah Briscoe-Awbrey
Self
De Leon, TX

LMTs work extremely hard to get and keep their licenses. We work each year to get continuing education so that we can provide the best care to our clients. Many LMTs that travel are self-employed and have added expenses that LMTs who work for others don't have. If you're expecting them to keep expending money that is already allocated for gas or a vehicle. This would force many LMTs to raise their rates. As many individuals know, the economy is not such that massage therapist can increase their rates every time we are met with more unnecessary "paperwork." What exactly is the point of these extra licenses and who is benefitting from this extra money politicians are making off the backs of massage therapists that are already working hard to provide a valuable service to their clients? LMTs already have a licensing board that we answer to and do not need politicians, who have no background in massage, demanding us to jump through more hoops for no better reason than you can. This is a ridiculous bill that has no business even being considered.

Jasmin Williams
Self/ Massage Therapist
Boerne, TX

I am opposed to HB2134, which if passed would not regulate or stop unlicensed and illicit operations purporting to offer massage services. The tools are already available because these are illegal businesses. They are criminals already according to Texas law, whether licensed or not. Human Trafficking, prostitution, and practicing massage without a license are crimes by definition.

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Deborah Key, LMT

Key Massage

Houston, TX

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LaToya Walker, License Massage Therapist

Self

San Antonio, TX

Dear House.... I believe that the bill that is attempting to be passed is unfair to current and future licensed massage therapist. This will cause unnecessary burdens on any therapist moving forward in their career. We have the MBLEX which is required now by every state to do exactly what this bill wants. This unnecessary paper work is nothing more than just that. Unnecessary. Please reconsider. We need more ways to keep our field safe not cause more paperwork to do our job.

Siera Tippie, Lmt
Self, massage therapist
Mineral Wells, TX

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Self

San Antonio, TX

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Wes Nelson

Self, Licensed Massage Therapist and Massage Therapy Instructor

Joshua, TX

I am opposed to HB2134, which if passed would not regulate or stop unlicensed and illicit operations purporting to offer massage services. The tools are already available because these are illegal businesses. They are criminals already according to Texas law, whether licensed or not. Human Trafficking, prostitution, and practicing massage without a license are crimes by definition.

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This bill needs to be voted down.

Tara Witcher Mathur
Self—Licensed Massage Therapist
Richmond, TX

I am opposed to HB2134, which if passed would not regulate or stop unlicensed and illicit operations purporting to offer massage services. The tools are already available because these are illegal businesses. They are criminals already according to Texas law, whether licensed or not. Human Trafficking, prostitution, and practicing massage without a license are crimes by definition.

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Tonja Miller
Self
Missouri City, TX

Opposed

Sharon Bennett, Licensed Massage Therapist
Self
DALLAS, TX

I am in full support for the cessation of human trafficking, prostitution, and the illegal practice of massage. However, HB2134 does not provide the means to effectively stop these illegal activities. Massage therapists and massage establishments are already registered with TDLR. If an establishment or practitioner is not licensed, this can be easily verified against the TDLR's registry. Adding an additional registration step at the city / county level would not further help local law enforcement determine the legal status of the establishment / practitioner; and would only put more of a burden on the law-abiding practitioners to complete additional steps and pay additional dues. Furthermore, HB2134 would put an undue burden on the local governments to track, monitor, and credential these establishments / providers - departments that are already overworked and underfunded. So I'm resoundingly against HB2134. Other options should be considered including: pulling a google map search of any place listing "massage" in the name / description and comparing that to the TRDL registry, or unannounced site visits / audits to these locations to review establishment credentials and provider licensure that are required to be posted for public review. Thank you so much for listening to my comments; I trust you will conscientiously proceed with voting NO to HB2134, and employing other solutions & best practices to end human trafficking, prostitution, and the illegal practice of massage.

Jennifer Booth

Licensed Massage Therapist

Mesquite, TX

I am opposed to 88(R) HB2134 by Thimesch, which if passed would not regulate or stop unlicensed and illicit operations purporting to offer massage services. The tools are already available because these are illegal businesses. They are criminals already according to Texas law, whether licensed or not. Human Trafficking, prostitution, and practicing massage without a license are crimes by definition.

I am a traveling licensed massage therapist, and I often visit many different cities throughout DFW to perform corporate chair massages at nationwide offices. Many times, I am contacted within a day or two of the event and this would jeopardize my ability to take these positions, or cause undue stress, overhead, and cost, to ensure I had permits in every city within the Dallas/Fort Worth metroplex. Please do not cause more hassle, red tape, and headache for we law abiding licensed massage therapists.

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Elicia Baker-Rogers, Dr.

Self, Registered Nurse: Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP, RN), LMT, BCTMB, ADS
Round Rock, TX

Dear Texas Legislators.

I am opposed to H.B. 2134. I am both a registered nurse (39 years) and a licensed massage therapist (19 years). I am also nationally board certified in therapeutic massage and bodywork (BCTMB). Massage therapists are professionals who work in the specialty of the manipulation of soft body tissues. The profession of massage therapy (MT) should be in alignment with other professions whose providers manipulate the body, i.e chiropractors, and physical therapists. Massage therapists must complete extensive education, clinical training, and pass an exam (MBLEx) as a requirement for initial licensure. In Texas, we are licensed practitioners, requiring fingerprinting, a background check, 12 hours of continuing education hours, and a course in human trafficking for renewal of our MT licenses.

If the impetus for H.B. 2134 is to mitigate human trafficking and prostitution which has unfortunately been associated with the massage therapy profession, municipal oversight is not the solution. In fact, it may add to the problem because there would be another administrative layer which would require monitoring for falsified documents. The fiscal note regarding H.B. 2134 delineates there is "no significant fiscal implication to units of local government is anticipated". I strongly dissent, it would take additional funding to hire, or utilize current personnel (who are most likely already overextended in their vocational responsibilities) to administrate the additional paperwork and documentation required to implement this bill as outlined. Currently, the state is the only administrator and gatekeeper for MT licensure which reduces confusion and duplication of effort.

Massage therapists, MT schools, and MT establishments are required to display their license(s) with a recent picture in an open area which can be seen by clients and/or investigators. Unfortunately, the MT license is on ordinary paper which can be easily replicated or modified by organized criminals. A recommendation would be to distribute MT licenses on paper with a watermark or other raised seal or marking to avoid falsification of documents. MTs do not need to bear the burden of additional fees and documents for the state of TX and the cities where the MTs are employed.

May I invite your attention to this resource:<https://www.fsmtb.org/media/1606/httf-report-final-web.pdf>

Please vote "NO" on H.B. 2134.

Respectfully submitted,

ebr

Zilun Huang
self,LMT
Belton, TX

No city licensing for LMT it will only be extra cost and paper work especially for traveling LMTs.

Erick Reyes
Massage Therapist
Ingleside, TX

I am opposed to HB2134, which if passed would not regulate or stop unlicensed and illicit operations purporting to offer massage services. The tools are already available because these are illegal businesses. They are criminals already according to Texas law, whether licensed or not. Human Trafficking, prostitution, and practicing massage without a license are crimes by definition. Texas (TDLR) already regulates me more restrictively than any state in the U.S. and is a model for that effort. I pay licensing fees to practice massage therapy in Texas, and am subject to regular and unannounced inspections and fines for not following the laws and rules as mandated. As a professional, I have to follow hundreds of rules for the regulation of Massage Therapists and Massage Establishments, or be potentially fined, or have my license revoked. Dozens of the rules are just about illicit practices. I must be fingerprinted and go through a criminal background check prior to licensing and upon each renewal and am required to complete 12 continuing education hours and a mandatory Human Trafficking course with each license renewal. As a Massage Therapist if I operate a Massage Establishment another separate license is required. Allowing a city to also have requirements to regulate massage businesses would be a burden on existing businesses, confusing as individual cities could have rules in conflict with TDLR, and costly by requiring additional fees like permit fees to operate in addition to the licensing fees I already pay, these rules may be different from city to city where I practice Massage Therapy or operate a Massage Establishment. A Massage Establishment owner who has businesses in multiple cities will have to navigate an already challenging path and could literally have different closing times in different cities for the same business type. Cities already have the ability to send in their police departments and inspect my business at any time to see if I am in violation of Chapter 455. If the business is not licensed for example as a reflexology or Thai Massage business with TDLR, the city can regulate those business types any way they choose as they do not fall under TDLR purview. We do not need more regulations for licensed massage therapists and establishments. We need to be protected from cities mandating additional requirements to operate already licensed and well-regulated Massage Therapists and Massage Establishments. In addition, this bill is vague and unenforceable with unclear repercussions and outcomes for Licensed Massage Establishments, and doesn't answer who will ultimately enforce this law and how will cities enforce it and be stopped from ultimately abusing it to keep legitimate businesses out of their city.

Cities have the tool for law enforcement as stated

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Dawn Lopez
Self
San Antonio, TX

This bill is beyond stupid. You will cripple your therapists and companies who have contracts between cities and counties. You will spend thousands of tax payers money to enforce this stupid rule. Home health and home care companies travel between cities. So you will create unrealistic costs and unnecessary need for extra costs and licensing for what? Your own self interest?

Tiffoni Moss
Self massage therapist
Dallas, TX

500+ hours for state licensing is taxing on our time and finances. The paperwork to file in each city would be insurmountable. I am opposed to HB2134, which if passed would not regulate or stop unlicensed and illicit operations purporting to offer massage services.

Michael Kenny
self massage therapist
Mesquite, TX

I am opposed to HB2134, which if passed would not regulate or stop unlicensed and illicit operations purporting to offer massage services. The tools are already available because these are illegal businesses. They are criminals already according to Texas law, whether licensed or not. Human Trafficking, prostitution, and practicing massage without a license are crimes by definition. Texas (TDLR) already regulates me more restrictively than any state in the U.S. and is a model for that effort. I pay licensing fees to practice massage therapy in Texas, and am subject to regular and unannounced inspections and fines for not following the laws and rules as mandated. As a professional, I have to follow hundreds of rules for the regulation of Massage Therapists and Massage Establishments, or be potentially fined, or have my license revoked. Dozens of the rules are just about illicit practices. I must be fingerprinted and go through a criminal background check prior to licensing and upon each renewal and am required to complete 12 continuing education hours and a mandatory Human Trafficking course with each license renewal. As a Massage Therapist if I operate a Massage Establishment another separate license is required. Allowing a city to also have requirements to regulate massage businesses would be a burden on existing businesses, confusing as individual cities could have rules in conflict with TDLR, and costly by requiring additional fees like permit fees to operate in addition to the licensing fees I already pay, these rules may be different from city to city where I practice Massage Therapy or operate a Massage Establishment. A Massage Establishment owner who has businesses in multiple cities will have to navigate an already challenging path and could literally have different closing times in different cities for the same business type. Cities already have the ability to send in their police departments and inspect my business at any time to see if I am in violation of Chapter 455. If the business is not licensed for example as a reflexology or Thai Massage business with TDLR, the city can regulate those business types any way they choose as they do not fall under TDLR purview. We do not need more regulations for licensed massage therapists and establishments. We need to be protected from cities mandating additional requirements to operate already licensed and well-regulated Massage Therapists and Massage Establishments. In addition, this bill is vague and unenforceable with unclear repercussions and outcomes for Licensed Massage Establishments, and doesn't answer who will ultimately enforce this law and how will cities enforce it and be stopped from ultimately abusing it to keep legitimate businesses out of their city.

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Truitt Ray
Self - LMT
Austin, TX

I am opposed to regulation of massage therapists by political subdivisions. Thank you.

Chacidy Canty
Massage therapy
Arlington, TX

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Aurie Williams
Self - Licensed Massage Therapist
Houston, TX

This is a bandaid fix to the trafficking wound our massage therapy industry is infected with, and we are tired of watching you all make such idle decisions that affect actual licensed massage therapists.

Enforcing regulation of licensing in every county is a punishment to massage therapists who are already licensed via TDLR. We appealed the clock-hours of our program and completed our schooling. We passed the licensing exam. We applied for our Texas State license and paid our fees to TDLR. We submitted our finger prints. We implemented the updated intake form requirements. We posted the human trafficking sign in our establishments. We take the human trafficking courses to renew every two years. What more do you want from us?

Many of those who are trafficked are not licensed and often operate under the license of ONE licensed massage therapist. Because of this, trafficking victims are often moved around from state to state. These SOBs (sexually oriented businesses) are finding loopholes in the lackadaisical efforts of law enforcement and bypassing the laws ALREADY in place.

Per Chapter 243 Local Government Code, licensed massage therapists are not listed as an exempt business. Are we, licensed massage therapists and massage therapy establishments, being readily considered as SOBs because the act of a "body rub" can be considered to provide sexual stimulation or sexual gratification to the customer?

Unfortunately, adding this legislation would not reduce criminal activity of actual SOBs but it would create unnecessary paperwork/fees for those of us who are already adhering to all the laws of our industry.

Koni Dumas
Self
MESQUITE, TX

I am opposed to HB2134, which if passed would not regulate or stop unlicensed and illicit operations purporting to offer massage services. The tools are already available because these are illegal businesses. They are criminals already according to Texas law, whether licensed or not. Human Trafficking, prostitution, and practicing massage without a license are crimes by definition.

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Ron Candelaria
Self/Massage Therapist
Burnet, TX

I vote NO! This bill is not designed to prevent nor help in anyway any issues pertaining the safety of either the general public nor the therapist. On the contrary it adds unnecessary paperwork and expenses to the law abiding Massage Therapist.

Kristine Drebes
Self
Round Rock, TX

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Rachel Porter
Self- Licensed Massage Therapist in Texas
Austin, TX

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Bonnie Tindall, LMT

Bonnie Tindall, LMT

AUSTIN, TX

Massage therapists are licensed by the state after meeting the state's requirements, including a nationally recognized exam. Municipalities do not have additional knowledge of anatomy or ethics to impart, above what is already required for licensure. Rather than attempting to add ill-informed regulations, municipalities should seek to educate themselves regarding the licensing requirements, and already existing remedies for any concerns.

Jeffrey Stuesser

Self / Massage Therapist

Austin, TX

Jeffrey Stuesser LMT Texas

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Mark Nepomuceno, LMT
self, Licensed Massage Therapist
Stafford, TX

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Shaquana Hodges
Self/ License Massage Therapist
Fort Worth, TX

This bill will help in so many ways.

Grace Lloyd, LMT
Self, Licensed Massage Therapist
Jarrell, TX

This bill wants Licensed Massage Therapists to be licensed in every city in which they practice, in addition to our state licensure through TDLR. Many massage therapists, especially travelling massage therapists, work in several cities. I, myself, work in Jarrell, Round Rock, Pflugerville, Leander, Georgetown, Austin and sometimes as far South as Palacios and Houston for house calls and events. Requiring city licensing for LMTs is not only impractical, but creates unnecessary paperwork and expenses for both therapists and cities. It also limits the amount of work an LMT can do, and hinders the revenue brought into the state by tourists looking to have massage therapists make house calls to their lodgings. In a field that was hit hard by Covid and now by this possible and likely recession, we cannot allow this to pass. It does not help the state, the cities, or massage therapists to let this pass.

Renee Carrasquillo

Self, business owner and LMT

Round rock, TX

Please no! I don't see the benefit - we already have a system that we work with, TDLR. This makes no sense by city, especially if the city adopts different rules/regulations than another one that the LMT operates in both.. please don't create more regulations than the safety regulations TDLR already provides.

Choice Kinchen, Massage Therapist

Self - massage therapists

Pflugerville, TX

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DeAndre Gary, RN, LMT, MTI

Self

Austin, TX

This is absurd. We are already regulated. The criminals are the wines who need more regulating. Not the professionals. I pay a state licensing for practice throughout Texas. Traveling in local regions and being regulated by each is not conducive to limiting Trafficking.

Colleen Mahoney

Self, Licensed Massage Therapist

San Antonio, TX

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Enid Martin, LMT

Self

El Paso, TX

OPTION 1:

I am in full support for the cessation of human trafficking, prostitution, and the illegal practice of massage. However, HB2134 does not provide the means to effectively stop these illegal activities. Massage therapists and massage establishments are already registered with TDLR. If an establishment or practitioner is not licensed, this can be easily verified against the TDLR's registry. Adding an additional registration step at the city / county level would not further help local law enforcement determine the legal status of the establishment / practitioner; and would only put more of a burden on the law-abiding practitioners to complete additional steps and pay additional dues. Furthermore, HB2134 would put an undue burden on the local governments to track, monitor, and credential these establishments / providers - departments that are already overworked and underfunded. So I'm resoundingly against HB2134.

Karl Kuykendall
Self - Massage Therapist
Austin, TX

I have been a licensed massage therapist for over 20 years and am in full support for the cessation of human trafficking, prostitution, and the illegal practice of massage. However, HB2134 will only punish those who practice legally and will not effectively contribute to stopping or slowing these illegal activities.

Massage therapists pay thousands of dollars to become licensed, spend hundreds for continuing education each year and pay additional money to have their license updated each year.

Massage therapists and massage establishments are already registered with TDLR. If an establishment or practitioner is not licensed, this can be easily verified against the TDLR's registry.

Adding an additional registration step at the city / county level would not increase the efficacy of local law enforcement to determine the legal status of an establishment / practitioner; and would only create more burdens for law-abiding practitioners by requiring additional steps and pay additional fees.

HB2134 would put an undue burden on the local governments to track, monitor, and credential establishments and therapist, increasing the tax burden on citizens and creating barriers for law-abiding therapists to establish and maintain their practices with little to no discernible results.

I am completely against HB2134.

It's not hard to identify who is operating illegally, a little research on Google and comparing those results with existing databases would be far more effective and would not financially punish law-abiding citizens and already financially burdened citizens/constituents. Plus, a little online research quickly yields how to find offenders.

We all want to end prostitution and sex trafficking within our industry, but making us pay more and creating an expanded and cumbersome bureaucracy on the backs of those who operate legally is not a viable solution.

Enforce the laws that exist and understand that those of us who make up this industry share your goals. Sex trafficking by those pretending to be in our industry hurts us, but HB2134 will only hurt us more.

Thank you for considering my comments; I trust you will conscientiously vote NO to HB2134, and consider existing and more effective solutions to end human trafficking, prostitution, and the illegal practice of massage.

James Gourley, RMT
AMTA Texas
Corpus Christi, TX

I am opposed to HB2134, which if passed would not regulate or stop unlicensed and illicit operations purporting to offer massage services. The tools are already available because these are illegal businesses. They are criminals already according to Texas law, whether licensed or not. Human Trafficking, prostitution, and practicing massage without a license are crimes by definition.

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MARY DONNELL, LMT

SELF - LICENSED MASSAGE THERAPIST - LICENSE # MT112213

SAN ANTONIO, TX

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Shaheen Taylor

Shaheen Taylor, Licensed Massage Therapist

Mckinney, TX

This bill literally makes no sense. As licensed massage therapists we went to school, studied hard to pass the MBLEX and I can pretty much guarantee it wasn't to get into sex trafficking. Many of us including myself have even gone the extra mile to continue our education that expands into medical massage because there are people who truly need our services as an alternative to opioids and other pain meds. I recently was approved as a provider for the VA to help veterans with pain management and PTSD. There are also those of us who offer mobile services and work all over the state of Texas. Many of us struggled during the pandemic and are now struggling during this economic difficult time. The focus should be on all these reflexology places and the like who do not need to be licensed yet they're offering massage services and no one in there is an LMT! I'm no way do I support sex trafficking but this is just going to far.

Alejandrina Collado, LMT
SELF, Licensed Massage Therapist
San Antonio, TX

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Amy Miller
Licensed Massage Therapist
Allen, TX

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Chasidy Criswell, Massage Therapist

self/ Massage Therapist

Dallas, TX

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Daniel Inman, LMT

Self

West Lake Hills, TX

I am in full support for the cessation of human trafficking, prostitution, and the illegal practice of massage. However, HB2134 does not provide the means to effectively stop these illegal activities. Massage therapists and massage establishments are already registered with TDLR. If an establishment or practitioner is not licensed, this can be easily verified against the TDLR's registry. Adding an additional registration step at the city / county level would not further help local law enforcement determine the legal status of the establishment / practitioner; and would only put more of a burden on the law-abiding practitioners to complete additional steps and pay additional dues. Furthermore, HB2134 would put an undue burden on the local governments to track, monitor, and credential these establishments / providers - departments that are already overworked and underfunded. So I'm resoundingly against HB2134. Other options should be considered including: pulling a google map search of any place listing "massage" in the name / description and comparing that to the TRDL registry, or unannounced site visits / audits to these locations to review establishment credentials and provider licensure that are required to be posted for public review. Thank you so much for listening to my comments; I trust you will conscientiously proceed with voting NO to HB2134, and employing other solutions & best practices to end human trafficking, prostitution, and the illegal practice of massage.

Patricia Schmidt

Self

Katy, TX

I am opposed to HB2134, which if passed would not regulate or stop unlicensed and illicit operations purporting to offer massage services. The tools are already available because these are illegal businesses. They are criminals already according to Texas law, whether licensed or not. Human Trafficking, prostitution, and practicing massage without a license are crimes by definition.

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Monica WALTRIP, Massage therapist

Self

Austin, TX

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Jessica Gargagliano

Self/Licensed Massage Therapist

Belton, TX

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Elizabeth Aguilar, Licensed massage therapist

Self

Austin, TX

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Kristen Smith, LMT, MMT

self

navasota, TX

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Janis McGuffin

Self, Self-Employed

Rockwall, TX

Massage therapists are already required to be registered and licensed through the state; requiring them to have licensure in the cities they practice creates an unnecessary burden. Many massage therapists work across a number of cities, in different clinical settings, traveling to sporting events and client homes. It is an unreasonable expectation that they limit their work to the cities they are licensed in when they are already recognized by the state.

Jake Jennings

Self

Abilene, TX

I am opposed to HB2134, which if passed would not regulate or stop unlicensed and illicit operations purporting to offer massage services. The tools are already available because these are illegal businesses. They are criminals already according to Texas law, whether licensed or not. Human Trafficking, prostitution, and practicing massage without a license are crimes by definition.

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Judy Jackson, Mrs.

Self Licensed Massage Therapist

Quanah, TX

This bill will not stop those without a license already operating, but will cause more difficulties for those licensed and operating legally. It will cause more fees, paperwork, and hoops than already present to jump through in order to retain the license each massage therapist has worked hard to obtain. Making more laws will not stop the ones this bill is intended to stop. There are numerous LMTs that have a current license operating in more than one city within their establishment and business. This bill will subject and require those LMTs to more operating hassle and cost by purchasing licenses in each city they operate. There are so many regulations and rules where at any time anyone of authority can walk in and conduct a surprise inspection and this includes law enforcement. This bill will not change any of the rules LMTs and massage establishments follow already to remain in operation for the betterment of the occupation, city, or state. Please do not allow this bill to pass and make it harder for those legally practicing at this current time.

Rhonda Sanders, LMT, LMTI

Self

Manor, TX

I, Rhonda Sanders, am opposed to HB2134, which if passed would not regulate or stop unlicensed and illicit operations purporting to offer massage services. The tools are already available because these are illegal businesses. They are criminals already according to Texas law, whether licensed or not. Human Trafficking, prostitution, and practicing massage without a license are crimes by definition.

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Virginia Ellis, PTA, LMT

self, Virginia Ellis, LMT

Corpus Christi, TX

I am OPPOSED to HB2134, which if passed would not regulate or stop unlicensed and illicit operations purporting to offer massage services. The tools are already available because these are illegal businesses. They are criminals already according to Texas law, whether licensed or not. Human Trafficking, prostitution, and practicing massage without a license are crimes by definition.

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Heather Galvan, LMT OWNER

Body Simplicity

Lancaster, TX

I own a mobile massage therapy business which serves 100 mile radius throughout DFW.

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Heather Ellis, Massage therapist

Self and massage therapist

Livingston, TX

I don't understand the reason behind this. We are already licensed by the state, why be licensed by our city?? That is just putting another fee on massage therapists to pay and have to jump through hoops to make sure they are licensed and their establishments are licensed. Massage therapy is becoming bigger and bigger and it seems like politicians are just trying to shut us down with all of these new regulations they think we should have to do

Stanley Brunson

Self and Licensed Massage Therapist

Rowlett, TX

As a Licensed Massage Therapist(LMT) for over 27 years that has lived and worked in Garland, Rowlett and Dallas this bill is ill advised, poorly written and represents an added administrative burden and cost for anyone that makes their living in the Massage Profession. I have worked On-Site Chair Massage Events in almost every City in the Dallas Ft. Worth Area and this bill would make it much more difficult and expensive to do that. Please reject this bill.

Lyn Teel
Self Licensed Massage Therapist
Frisco, TX

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Elizabeth Meador

Self, Licensed Massage Therapist

Austin, TX

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Trevor Miller-Cobb, LMT

TDLR: ME5038

Austin, TX

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Mykayla Harris, LMT

Self

Angleton, TX

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Juliann Gorman
Sage Blossom Massage
AUSTIN, TX

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Natalie Meyersick, LMT

SELF LMT

Austin, TX

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Veronica Ortega, LMT

Self

El Paso, TX

Texas is a big state. We travel to help each other in different cities as well as travelling to attend events. Thus does not benefit our industry.

Jackye Crumley, LMT

Self LMT

Brownwood, TX

Very much oppose. I travel to a few of my clients who are bed bound and have extremely bad ptsd. Thus would hinder their care as I do not have the time or resources to apply in every rural Texas town in a 50 mile radius. This is ridiculous and you are keeping care from some of these clients.

Linda Susanne Haces, Massage Therapist

Self

Dallas, TX

I am in full support for the cessation of human trafficking, prostitution, and the illegal practice of massage. However, HB2134 does not provide the means to effectively stop these illegal activities. Massage therapists and massage establishments are already registered with TDLR. If an establishment or practitioner is not licensed, this can be easily verified against the TDLR's registry. Adding an additional registration step at the city / county level would not further help local law enforcement determine the legal status of the establishment / practitioner; and would only put more of a burden on the law-abiding practitioners to complete additional steps and pay additional dues. Furthermore, HB2134 would put an undue burden on the local governments to track, monitor, and credential these establishments / providers - departments that are already overworked and underfunded. So I'm resoundingly against HB2134. Other options should be considered including: pulling a google map search of any place listing "massage" in the name / description and comparing that to the TRDL registry, or unannounced site visits / audits to these locations to review establishment credentials and provider licensure that are required to be posted for public review. Thank you so much for listening to my comments; I trust you will conscientiously proceed with voting NO to HB2134, and employing other solutions & best practices to end human trafficking, prostitution, and the illegal practice of massage.

Elisabeth Belile

Self, Writer and LMT

Austin, TX

I am an LMT in the state of Texas and I'm opposed to HB2134, which would not regulate or stop unlicensed and illicit operations purporting to offer massage services if passed. The tools are already available because these are illegal businesses. They are criminals already according to Texas law, whether licensed or not. Human Trafficking, prostitution, and practicing massage without a license are crimes by definition. Texas (TDLR) already regulates me more restrictively than any state in the U.S. and is a model for that effort. I pay licensing fees to practice massage therapy in Texas and am subject to regular and unannounced inspections and fines for not following the laws and rules as mandated.

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I'm not currently practicing massage, but when I do, I serve disabled patients living in cities just outside of Austin, where I live. It would be an enormous burden to have to pay fees to each city. I've served clients in Pflugerville, Leander, and Cedar Park. As a contractor with the state to provide these services, these fees would become prohibitive.

Allowing a city to also have requirements to regulate massage businesses would be a burden on existing businesses, confusing as individual cities could have rules in conflict with TDLR, and costly by requiring additional fees like permit fees to operate in addition to the licensing fees I already pay, these rules may be different from city to city where I practice Massage Therapy.

We do not need more regulations for licensed massage therapists and establishments.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Miriam Loera, LMT

Home Health Agencies across RGV

Pharr, TX

Unnecessary additional financial and time consuming burden.

Stephen Childress
Licensed Massage Therapist
Houston, TX

I am opposed to HB2134, which if passed would not regulate or stop unlicensed and illicit operations purporting to offer massage services. The tools are already available because these are illegal businesses. They are criminals already according to Texas law, whether licensed or not. Human Trafficking, prostitution, and practicing massage without a license are crimes by definition.

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Kelsy Vick
Kinetique
Leander, TX

I am a physical therapist, and I oftentimes refer patients to massage therapists and other healthcare providers to help in their healing and rehabilitation. Any bill to limit access to massage therapy services can be viewed as hindering a patient's recovery. Furthermore, it is very challenging to find a healthcare provider you trust, especially for massage therapy, as you are in a vulnerable situation oftentimes. Forcing patients to find a new massage therapist due to licensing restrictions places undue mental burden on the patient & can delay their healing.

Jay Wilson

Self, massage therapist

San Antonio, TX

I am opposed to HB2134, which if passed would not regulate or stop unlicensed and illicit operations purporting to offer massage services. The tools are already available because these are illegal businesses. They are criminals already according to Texas law, whether licensed or not. Human Trafficking, prostitution, and practicing massage without a license are crimes by definition. Texas (TDLR) already regulates me more restrictively than any state in the U.S. and is a model for that effort. I pay licensing fees to practice massage therapy in Texas, and am subject to regular and unannounced inspections and fines for not following the laws and rules as mandated. As a professional, I have to follow hundreds of rules for the regulation of Massage Therapists and Massage Establishments, or be potentially fined, or have my license revoked. Dozens of the rules are just about illicit practices. I must be fingerprinted and go through a criminal background check prior to licensing and upon each renewal and am required to complete 12 continuing education hours and a mandatory Human Trafficking course with each license renewal. As a Massage Therapist if I operate a Massage Establishment another separate license is required. Allowing a city to also have requirements to regulate massage businesses would be a burden on existing businesses, confusing as individual cities could have rules in conflict with TDLR, and costly by requiring additional fees like permit fees to operate in addition to the licensing fees I already pay, these rules may be different from city to city where I practice Massage Therapy or operate a Massage Establishment. A Massage Establishment owner who has businesses in multiple cities will have to navigate an already challenging path and could literally have different closing times in different cities for the same business type. Cities already have the ability to send in their police departments and inspect my business at any time to see if I am in violation of Chapter 455. If the business is not licensed for example as a reflexology or Thai Massage business with TDLR, the city can regulate those business types any way they choose as they do not fall under TDLR purview. We do not need more regulations for licensed massage therapists and establishments. We need to be protected from cities mandating additional requirements to operate already licensed and well-regulated Massage Therapists and Massage Establishments. In addition, this bill is vague and unenforceable with unclear repercussions and outcomes for Licensed Massage Establishments, and doesn't answer who will ultimately enforce this law and how will cities enforce it and be stopped from ultimately abusing it to keep legitimate businesses out of their city.

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