

January 16th, 2018

Rep Maida Townsend
House Committee on Government Relations
115 State St.
Montpelier, VT 05633

Dear Committee Members:

My name is Laura Bull Morley and the points I want to make are simple:

1. We MUST set a standard of education for massage therapists in Vermont.

At this point anyone is allowed to call themselves a massage therapist- touching clients with a wide variety of pathologies with little to no education.

2. In 2013 two "spas" were raided here in Bennington, Vermont. Unfortunately no arrests were ever made and those places are still open. It is widely known that prostitution is occurring at these locations. They are also most likely fronts for human trafficking which is why the FBI was involved as well as local law enforcement.

At the time, the county attorney working the case was a client of mine and we had a discussion about it. Very simply, I asked her, "If Massage Therapists were licensed in VT would it have helped in shutting these places down?" Her answer was yes.

If we could aid law enforcement in shutting down prostitution and human trafficking don't we have that responsibility?

I urge you to please consider a Massage Practice Act in our state of Vermont.

Sincerely,

Laura Bull Morley, LMT
Massage For You,
5 Bank Street
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