

Dear Representative

I am writing to ask you as a constituent and a supporter of the practice of massage therapy in the state of Illinois requesting that you vote NO on HB 4340 until it is amended to remove any references to massage therapy. This bill amends the Human Trafficking Resource Center Notice Act by adding massage businesses/establishments back in. If passed, this bill would require some massage therapists to conspicuously post a notice in their place of business with information about human trafficking and the National Human Trafficking Resource Center. Massage therapy is the only licensed health care profession proposed to be included in this law.

When the Human Trafficking Resource Center Notice Act was introduced in 2015 it initially included massage therapy. The massage therapists in the state strenuously objected and massage therapy was ultimately removed from the original legislation. At that time we pointed out that requiring legitimate massage therapy businesses to post such notices denigrates the professional standing of those businesses in the eyes of their clients and confuses the public. It perpetuates the link between massage therapy and illegal activities. We also explained that the Massage Licensing Act has better enforcement tools to tackle the sex trade disguised as massage businesses. The Massage Licensing Act continues to be the best tool to tackle illegitimate services masquerading as massage businesses. The Department of Financial and Professional Regulation, in conjunction with local law enforcement has the ability to investigate and close these businesses.

The intended goal of HB4340 needs to stay focused on the victims of human trafficking and posting and promoting awareness of the resources where trafficked persons may actually see it. HB 4340 will not stop these businesses that rely on human trafficking as their labor source. It will only damage the image of the professional massage therapists in the State of Illinois. Please vote no on this legislation.

Sincerely,

TO OPPOSE HB4340: A CALL TO ACTION WILL BE NEEDED FOR ALL ILLINOIS MASSAGE THERAPIST

Ways to OPPOSE HB4340

- Create witness slip
 - <http://www.ilga.gov/>
 - Search HB4340
 - Example to complete slip shown on right
 - You do not need to be a therapist to OPPOSE the bill

AND/OR

- Find and Contact your local representative
 - <http://www.ilga.gov/>
 - Go to "Legislator Lookup"
 - Click the map and enter your address

Quick link to witness slip: Scan QR code

