



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

DAWN LUEDTKE
COUNCILMEMBER
DISTRICT 7

February 10, 2026

The Honorable Pamela Beidle
Chair, Finance Committee
3 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Senate Bill 419, *Health Occupations – State Board of Massage Therapy Examiners – Revisions*

Dear Chair Beidle,

I write today to express my strong support for Senate Bill 419, *Health Occupations – State Board of Massage Therapy Examiners – Revisions*. This legislation represents a practical and necessary step toward modernizing Maryland’s massage therapy licensing framework by phasing out outdated registration categories and ensuring that all practitioners meet a clear, consistent licensure standard.

By revising the massage therapy licensure system to require full licensure for all practitioners rather than allowing a dual system of registration and licensure, SB 419 closes a long-standing regulatory loophole that has made it difficult for local jurisdictions to fully oversee and regulate massage establishments across the State. Under the existing structure, the less stringent registration pathway has at times created uneven standards for training, oversight, and enforcement; and has limited the ability of local health departments and law enforcement partners to distinguish between legitimate therapeutic practice and venues that may mask unlawful or exploitative activity.

Anti-human-trafficking advocates and public-safety organizations alike note that clear, robust, and enforceable licensing frameworks are a core tool for preventing exploitation and illicit enterprise. Where regulatory requirements are inconsistent or too permissive, bad actors can exploit gaps in oversight, undermining both public confidence and community safety. By

aligning educational, credentialing, and enforcement standards for massage therapy practitioners, this bill strengthens the State's capacity to protect both consumers and practitioners.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 419.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dawn Luedtke". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "L".

Dawn Luedtke

Montgomery County Councilmember, District 7