

Chair and Members of the Health and Government Operations Committee,

My name is Tai Brown, and I am here in support of this work study examining the Body Altering Aesthetics industry.

Each year, Maryland residents undergo elective surgical procedures and are discharged within hours. Recovery includes trauma remodeling from large-volume surgical procedures that separated tissue planes and disrupted so much of the body's fluid-regulating networks. Patients leave surgery with altered microvascular dynamics, and a high inflammatory load. When that widespread level of physiological disruption occurs, patients seek and find benefit in what has emerged over the last 20yrs as a synergy of postsurgical bodywork treatments and services.

These services are frequently categorized as 'massage,' yet the techniques being delivered often extend beyond what traditional massage therapy statutes were designed to address. They also do not align cleanly within existing nursing, esthetics, cosmetology, or physical therapy frameworks. This creates a definitional and regulatory gap, and public confusion. Consumers believe they are receiving one category of care, while providers operate within language that does not clearly define what is permissible— and indirectly introduce negligence into client care.

Regardless of opinions of the work, Maryland residents are actively seeking these services; In the state of Maryland alone, for every 100,000 google searches, 299 of them are about surgery recovery and post surgical bodywork. When demand exists without clear definitions, oversight, or education standards, confusion increases for everyone involved.

That confusion carries consequences. Preventable complications escalate. Inconsistent training leads to variable practice standards. Scope boundaries blur. Licensed providers are placing their licenses on the line to help desperate clients. Patients absorb financial and medical burdens. Families face avoidable distress. Boards are taxed with the gray areas of their licensed providers who lack clear pathways for this work & are forced to interpret statutes that were never designed for this category of care.

This work study gives Maryland the opportunity to examine scope gaps, liability exposure, educational standards, and consumer protections before further harm occurs. It gathers data and stakeholder input so future policy decisions are grounded in evidence and public safety.

Maryland can address this proactively and thoughtfully.

Thank you.