

Honorable Senators and Delegates of the Maryland Legislature,

Greetings and Salutations,

The American Organization for Bodywork Therapies of Asia® is a nationwide organization supporting Eastern philosophical approaches to health and well-being, and supports our membership in their personal and professional development and success. We work to ensure that all practitioners of Asian Bodywork Therapy (ABT) are well-trained, respected, and certified professionals in the field. We have a 500-hour minimum curriculum, and a strict code of ethics that have helped build solidarity in the profession for over three decades.

Our members in Maryland, many who have been practicing for decades, are affected by HB1039 and SB0745, as are the many hundreds of others who are trained in and practice forms of Asian Bodywork Therapy.

The bills as they stand would remove the current explicit exemption for energy work. It would force those Marylanders who use energy methods in their practice, to take a year off and spend thousands of dollars going to massage school, just to retain the practice they've worked years to build. It is our opinion that this exemption should remain to protect the ongoing practices in this struggling economy. Our goal is to ensure the general public has access to good health support.

If you need more information on the current curriculum of our schools, our code of ethics, or the other modalities of ABT, please email me or check out our website at AOBTA.org for further details.

Ever Onward,

Deborah Valentine Smith, BA, LMT (NY), Dipl. ABT (NCCAOM)
AOBTA® President
Authorized Jin Shin Do® Bodymind Acupressure® Teacher
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