

April 17, 2012

VIA email

RE: Senate bill 1193, relating to human trafficking
Oppose the inclusion of massage businesses or establishments

Senate Judiciary Committee

Dear Senator Steinberg,

Associated Bodywork & Massage Professionals (ABMP) is a national professional association for massage therapists that provides professional liability insurance, business resources and publications, and legislative and regulatory advocacy on behalf of our members. ABMP's membership totals more than 80,000 nationwide, including more than 13,000 members in California.

We are writing to voice our opposition to the inclusion of massage businesses or establishments among the list of businesses that would be required to publicly post human trafficking notices if SB 1193 were to pass. While ABMP believes that human trafficking is abhorrent, a massage business is not an appropriate place to require the listing of a human trafficking hotline.

- Mandating the inclusion of human trafficking hotline information in businesses creates an unacceptable link between massage therapy and prostitution.
- The other businesses and locations listed in the bill make sense. They are high traffic areas with excellent public exposure. Massage businesses are most often small businesses with minimal exposure to the public.
- The added financial burden associated with translation costs would be cost prohibitive to small businesses owners.

ABMP supports the intention behind the bill and the concept of posting information regarding where to seek help, however, please reconsider the inclusion of massage businesses in SB 1193. Thank you for your consideration of ABMP's concerns.

Sincerely,



Jean Robinson
Government Relations Director

