



April 20, 2023

Senator Kirk Hatcher
State of Alabama
P.O. Box 6213
Montgomery, AL 36106

Dear Senator Hatcher,

I am the Chief Executive Officer of the United States Organization of Licensed Massage Therapists. (USOLMT). I watched this live stream and was taken aback by your question asking Keith Warren “What is it that licensed massage therapists do that they are not supposed to be doing?”

I understand that you were making a joke and that it was most likely done in an effort to break the tension in the room, however, any insinuation in a public forum that LMTs do things they shouldn't as a joke puts you in the same category as a lot of the public who believe massage therapy comes with sex or happy endings.

I am sure you are well aware that is not the case, and that anyone providing sexual services under the guise of massage therapy is not a massage therapist, but a prostitute, and any establishment performing such services is not a massage clinic, it is a brothel or sexually oriented business.

Human Trafficking is an entirely different subject that often gets lumped in with prostitution. Because of the increase in both prostitution and trafficking of persons under the guise of massage therapy, Licensed Massage Therapists are suffering the consequences.

The consequences are:

- 1 – Increasing fees to practice all over the country which are then funneled into trafficking or prostitution investigations
- 2 – An uptick in sexual solicitation all over the US that comes in the form of text messages, obscene phone calls, and sexual innuendo or assault in the treatment room from clients who are not looking for massage therapy but are looking for sexual acts.
- 3 – There is little accountability, enforcement, or assistance for LMTs who are experiencing this
- 4 – The last several years due to this uptick, massage therapy has become more unsafe and more risky as a profession

In the future, if you would refrain from further jokes and/or comments of this nature, the whole profession would appreciate it. We expect the same professionalism that is asked of licensees to be modeled by our governing boards and our state legislature members.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Rodriguez

Chief Executive Officer