

PA13-37

HB6243

House	2190-2200	11
Public Health	2394-2404, 2408-2409, 2637-2648, 3276-3336	86
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**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE**

**PROCEEDINGS
2013**

**VOL.56
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hac/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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May 1, 2013

Total Number Voting	143
Necessary for Passage	72
Those voting Yea	143
Those voting Nay	0
Absent and not voting	7

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

The bill is passed.

Would the Clerk please call Calendar 357?

THE CLERK:

House Calendar 357, favorably reported Joint
Standing Committee on PUBLIC HEALTH SUBSTITUTE HOUSE
BILL 6243, AN ACT CONCERNING THE PRACTICE OF THAI
YOGA.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Johnson.

REP. GROGINS (129th):

No. Representative Grogins.

Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Oh. Representative Grogins.

REP. GROGINS (129th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I move for the acceptance of the Joint
Committee's favorable report and passage of this bill.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Questions on acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill?

Will you remark, Madam?

REP. GROGINS (129th):

Yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

This is a clean-up bill. The law we passed last year, known as Public Act 1264 and more commonly known as the Massage Parlor Bill. In that law, we added the list of -- to the list of terms requiring that the practitioner be a massage therapist. We added the term "Thai yoga" and to have that title appear in advertising for the services, you can only -- you must be a licensed massage therapist.

We inadvertently targeted and covered some folks that we did not intend to cover in that bill, so this bill exempts Thai yoga teachers from having to have a massage therapy license. In order for them to practice Thai yoga, they have to be registered as a yoga teacher with the Yoga Alliance Registry and have at least 200 hours of training in Thai yoga. So I move for adoption.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Thank you, Madam.

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Will you remark?

REP. GROGINS (129th):

Yes. I have an amendment, Mr. Speaker. Can the Clerk please call LCO Number 6003. I might ask that that -- the Clerk call that amendment and I'd be granted leave of the Chamber to summarize that amendment.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Will the Clerk please call LCO 6105, which will be...

REP. GROGINS (129th):

I believe it's 6003.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Will the Clerk please call Calendar 6003 to be designated House Amendment A.

THE CLERK:

House...

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Sorry.

THE CLERK:

House Amendment A SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 6243 LCO
6003, introduced by Representatives Johnson and
Grogins.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative seeks leave of the Chamber to summarize.

Is there objection? Is there objection?

Representative Grogins you have the floor.

REP. GROGINS (129th):

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

This amendment deletes the word "Thai Yoga Massage," which was not intended to be included in this bill and -- Thai -- to be -- to practice Thai yoga massage, you would still need a massage therapy license. I move for adoption.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Thank you, Madam.

The question before the Chamber is adoption of House Amendment A.

Do you care to remark on House Amendment A?

Representative Samson of the 80th.

On the bill. Thank you.

Representative Srinivasan, you're on the board.

Okay.

Is there anyone who'd like to remark on House Amendment A?

Seeing none, I'll try your minds. All those in favor of House Amendment A, please signify by saying aye.

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REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Those opposed, nay.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Nay.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

The ayes have it.

The amendment is adopted.

Would you care to remark further on the bill as amended? Would you care to remark further on the bill as amended? As amended?

Representative Sampson.

REP. SAMPSON (80th)

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Forgive me. I really wasn't prepared for this bill to come up today, but I know I've received some correspondence from some of my constituents who expressed some concerns and I've a question for the proponent of the bill.

Through Mr. Speaker, if I could.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Grogins, please prepare yourself.

REP. GROGINS (129th):

Thank you.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Please (inaudible) your question, sir.

REP. SAMPSON (80th):

Just curious to maybe the intent of the legislation that was already passed that this seeks to update. It seems to me that it was put in place to maybe make massage therapy recognized as a more credible industry and potentially eliminate folks who hide behind the word "massage" to do devious things and I'd like to confirm that if I could.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Grogins.

REP. GROGINS (129th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Through you.

Yes, that is correct, it did intend to legitimize -- further legitimize that profession and, of course, the target was to eliminate illegal massage parlors, which were really houses for prostitutions. I will tell you that there is an agreement between the American Massage Therapy Association in Connecticut and the Thai Yoga

instructors that have come forward and they are in favor of this bill.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Sampson.

REP. SAMPSON (80th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

And thank -- thank you to the -- my colleague on the other side of the aisle for -- for clarifying that. I think I'll be supporting the bill after all. I had some concerns about whether or not Thai Yoga was something that should be recognized as a legitimate profession as well, based on some correspondence I received from my district, but it seems to me, based on the remarks that I just heard, that it is.

So thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I'll be voting in favor.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Thank you very much, sir.

Would you care to remark further on the bill as amended?

Representative Srinivasan of the 31st.

REP. SRINIVASAN (31st):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

This bill, as amended, as was appropriately said, is a clean-up bill for what we passed last year and removing Thai massage -- Thai yoga, I'm sorry. Removing Thai yoga from this entire massage concept is the right thing for us to do, because they have the Registry, they have the hours of training, and would be able to the Thai yoga in the appropriate way.

But having said that, through you, Mr. Speaker, if somebody were to do Thai yoga massage -- Thai yoga massage, so that we're all clear, since we're going back from last year's bill and a new amended bill, would they still need the massage therapist's license to do Thai yoga massage?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Grogins.

REP. GROGINS (129th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, thank you.

Yes, that's correct. They would still need a massage therapy license because Thai yoga massage is massage. This was, again, just to directed towards exempting Thai yoga practitioners who don't practice massage, but they are still -- they are only exempt if they can establish that they have a certification from

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the Yoga Alliance Registry and they have 200 hours of practice in Thai yoga. So again, we are not exempting Thai yoga massage therapists.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Srinivasan.

REP. SRINIVASAN (31st):

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

So if somebody were to do Thai yoga massage, who are not excluded from this amended bill of ours, would they need both a massage therapy license, as well as the Registry for the Thai yoga and the 200 hours of training that we talked about for people who do Thai yoga alone?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Grogins.

REP. GROGINS (129th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

They would need a massage therapy license, because Thai yoga massage is massage. So they wouldn't need to be necessarily a yoga instructor, they would need to be a massage therapist.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Srinivasan.

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REP. SRINIVASAN (31st):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

And thank you for clarifying the very confusing concept of Thai yoga, Thai yoga massage, and massage. I think you made that very clear, so we know for whom we are going to be supporting this particular bill for.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Thank you, sir.

Would you care to remark further on the bill as amended? Would you care to remark further on the bill as amended? If not, staff and guests to the Well of the House. Members take your seats. The machine will be open.

THE CLERK:

The House of Representatives is voting by roll.

The House of Representative is voting by roll. Will members please return to the chamber immediately.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Have all members voted? Have all members voted?

Members please check the board to make sure your vote is properly cast.

If all the members have voted, the machine will be locked and the Clerk will take a tally.

Will Clerk please announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

Mr. Speaker, House Bill Number 6243.

Total Number Voting 142

Necessary for Passage 72

Those voting Yea 139

Those voting Nay 3

Absent and not voting 8

As amended.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

The bill is amended passed.

Representative (inaudible) for what purpose do you rise?

A VOICE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I'm not quite sure whether I should call it a point of privilege, but I was out of the Chamber during -- when the vote was pending for 6571 and was unable to get the attention of the podium when I came back. If I had been able to vote, I would have cast my vote in the affirmative.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

**JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS**

**PUBLIC
HEALTH
PART 8
2384-2726**

2013

ROBERT CLARK: Thank you very much.

SENATOR GERRATANA: Thank you. Just a little announcement. Later on today we will be hearing about a bill before our Committee, House Bill 6519 AN ACT CONCERNING THE LABELING OF GENETICALLY ENGINEERED FOOD, and just so you know, I wanted to announce, on the second floor in the break-out area near Human Services we have with us the ice-cream company, Ben & Jerry's and they have brought samples.

Oh, and I understand Jerry is here, too, so if you like their ice cream, they are Cherry Garcia, there you go. It's there, and it might help as you wait to testify before our Committee. So thank you very much. We go back to our public officials. Next is Representative Auden Grogins, and then we have a special request for David Kiel to follow her.

Good morning, madam.

REP. GROGINS: Good morning, everyone. Thank you, Senator Gerratana, Representative Johnson and all the distinguished Members of the Public Health Committee. I have here a constituent I had aside permission to send my time with, constituent Jeanine Oburchay on this issue.

I'm here to speak in favor of House Bill 6243, which is an act making a technical change to the statute concerning advertising by massage therapists.

If you recall last year, I actually introduced the massage parlor bill, which cracked down on illegal massage parlors, and which I believe passed unanimously in both the House and the Senate and has been a wonderful bill because Bridgeport has been able to close ten massage parlors and other cities and towns have followed suit.

We have Stamford closing I believe three, and Fairfield the other day closing a few.

After the bill passed, I'll just tell you in summary because again, I'm sharing my time, I was contacted by several yoga instructors who practice Thai yoga and they indicated to me that this Thai yoga was listed in my original bill, my massage parlor bill and we not only listed Tai yoga, we listed Tai yoga massage.

Apparently, Thai yoga has impacted and unintended, at least from my point of view, an unintended profession, group of professionals who are yoga, who practice yoga and that's why my constituent is here. She practices Thai yoga and it's her position that Thai yoga is not massage.

There is some debate about that. I think you're going to hear from the Massage Therapy Association that they believe it is. I am trying to work with them to come to some agreed language, but there are a group of yoga instructors that are now prohibited from practicing Thai yoga. They are legitimate yoga instructors. They have certificates. They have hours, certifications, they have, you know, at least 200 hours and they are impacted by this, and that is the legislative intent behind this bill here today to make that technical change, which I propose would be to delete Thai yoga and leave in Thai yoga massage.

However, I have met with both the massage therapists, representatives and the Thai yoga instructors and we're trying to come to some agreement, at least I am with the President. We're trying to work on some language that would hopefully satisfy everyone.

I hope we can do that. I don't know if we can but I will, I am here today to say that my intention, and I think I'm the best person to speak to that in terms of the legislative history, my intention in this bill was to address prostitution and human trafficking, which is the result of illegal massage parlors, and that's what this bill has done.

So I would think, you know, I hope, this is a very important amendment to me because again, my intention and I put that legislative history when I introduced the bill and when I presented it to the House was again, to eliminate or help eliminate human trafficking and prostitution.

So I'll turn it over to Jeanine Oburchay and again, I'm hoping I can come to an agreement with both parties.

SENATOR GERRATANA: Please state your name for the record.

JEANINE OBURCHAY: My name is Jeanine Oburchay. Thank you all and thank you, Representative Johnson, Senator Gerratana and Members of the Public Health Committee for hearing this.

HB6243

I'm here with my colleague, Patricia McEvoy from New London and Robert Ortner from Norwalk. They also submitted written testimony. And we've had many other colleagues submit written testimony but they chose not to come because after years of receiving letters threatening their livelihood from two specific licensed massaged therapists, they've really been rendered silent, which is unfortunate in the democratic process.

I have four quick points that I want to make in support of this bill. The first is what Auden said, that the legislative intent of the original

bill was to eliminate sex shops and illicit massage parlors.

I happen to live in Bridgeport, so I'm really grateful for cleaning up the area that we live in and I think that legislative intent is great.

But I can assure you there is absolutely no relation between what we do for a living, Thai yoga and illicit massage parlors.

My second point is that Thai yoga is not the same as western massage. It's known as lazy man's yoga, or assisted yoga therapy. It's energy work and it's stretching.

I receive these tissue massage every other week from a licensed massage therapist and I don't do anything like what they do. Maybe it's different to receive Thai yoga from a licensed massage therapist who's trained in Thai yoga. I don't know because I don't normally receive it from a licensed massage therapist, but their training is going to inform everything they do, just as my training is going to inform everything I do.

I put people into passive yoga stretches just like I do in my restorative yoga class that I teach to the public every week, and just as Phoenix (inaudible) yoga teachers in their public classes. There are lots of different types of yoga.

There are led classes. There are public classes. There are individual classes, like my store. There are passive classes. There are active yoga classes. So to say that everything about yoga should fit into just standing up and getting into a warrior pose would be really disingenuous. The practice of Thai yoga, the practice of stretching someone is a yoga practice.

My third point is, I understand that the Massage Therapy Association has said that we Thai yoga practitioners are a threat to the public health, and I would assert that anyone without a yoga background who claims to practice Thai yoga is a threat.

I have well over 500 hours of yoga training. I have well over 500 hours of Thai training and process. I have well over 100 hours of anatomy training including cadaver labs. I don't know a single yoga practitioner, or excuse me, a single yoga teacher or Thai yoga practitioner who after 200 hours of training says, that's it, I'm done. I don't need to know anything more.

Part of the practice, part of what's instilled in us is the desire to learn more, and in understanding that there's an abundance and we can always do more.

And my last point is, I've heard the massage therapists argue that all stretching and all range of motion qualifies as a massage.

I happen to also be a diving coach at the high school and national age group level. I stretch my divers. I do not massage my divers. If they need a massage, I recommend that they go to one, to a licensed massage therapist, just as I recommend to my yoga clients to get licensed massage therapy.

To say that all range of motion and all stretching is massage would be to require every athletic coach in the state, every yoga teacher, every ballet instructor, every Palates teacher, to become a licensed massage therapist, and that just doesn't sound reasonable to me.

I would like to see the language, Thai yoga removed from the original bill.

SENATOR GERRATANA: Thank you very much.

REP. GROGINS: Thank you for hearing both of us.
We're happy to take questions.

SENATOR GERRATANA: And let's see, Representative Miller had a question, I believe.

REP. GROGINS: Sure.

REP. PHIL MILLER: Thank you, Madam Chair. Thank you for coming, Representative, and your guest, thank you.

Last year that was a great victory and I know that one of the things that you needed to do in presenting and defending the bill on the floor of the House was, you were distinguishing massage therapy, letting people know it's a legitimate medical and therapeutic and beneficial practice.

And one of the things I think was also even documented was how many hundreds of hours went into gaining a massage therapy license and the national test which is given in regional test centers and such, very comprehensive test.

My question is, I'm wondering if the Thai yoga got thrown in because it's also considered largely therapeutic body work, and also what requirements, if any, mirror those of massage therapists, and if that might be a cause for confusion here. Maybe if you could clear that perhaps.

REP. GROGINS: Thank you. I can answer why it got put in there, and then I'm going to turn it over to Jeanine to answer what the similarities are, because I'm not either licensed in massage therapy or yoga and I don't have that much familiarity.

I was grateful that I had a lot of input from the American Massage Therapy Association here in Connecticut. I work with their President, who's here today to testify and he and his group were very helpful in that they gave me their input on what, you know, the different types of massage.

This more went to, there's a component of the bill that deals with advertising.

And so, my concern, I can speak from my legislative intent was, my concern was there was some illegal massage parlor out there that was advertising, you know, different things, including certain types of yoga.

As it turns out, they don't advertise yoga. They advertise massage, is what they advertise. But I put it in there based on input from these professionals and I'm not saying that the input isn't legitimate. There may be similarities and that's why I'm working with them and am going to continue to work with the President to come up with some sort of qualifying language that I hope that you can vote on. I hope we can come to an agreement.

What I didn't want to happen, and I can tell you that, it to have practicing legitimate yoga, you know, practitioners be affected by this bill. They have, and Kim Fawcett has co-introduced this with me. She also got contacted by many of her constituents who run yoga, legitimate yoga studios and it's actually impacting 30 to 40 percent of their business.

That was not the intent of this bill. So I will turn it over to Miss Oburchay to address the similarities, perhaps.

JEANINE OBURCHAY: I can tell you that I don't know about the massage requirements, because I'm not a licensed massage therapist, but for yoga instructions the requirements are that we get either, and by the way there is no licensing for yoga instructors so that's part of it, the confusion.

We get certified and certified typically by an organization called Yoga Alliance. The minimum requirement for a yoga instructor is 200 hours, and then the next level is 500 hours. There's something also called an experienced yoga instructor, which means how many years you've been teaching and how many classes you've taught in that many years.

On top of that, when you have your instructors who studied Thai, typically, I mean, it depends on the school because there are very different schools around her of Thai yoga.

I went to one school where the minimum, excuse me, not the minimum, the experienced certification, I believe is what it's called, it 200 hours.

Now beyond that, a lot of Thai yoga practitioners, and like I said, I don't know anybody who stops at that. They continue to practice. They assist at different Thai yoga workshops or trainings and they practice when they first start out.

I don't know of any who popped out of a Level 1 course, that have taken 30 hours and suddenly start making money out there. I really don't, because the objective is that they're supposed to go out and practice their craft for a while without taking (inaudible).

REP. PHIL MILLER: Well, thank you for helping to clear that up. I think that will help, and I'm wondering if, as more people hear about Thai yoga, they'll start to differentiate and be better educated about it, hopefully.

REP. GROGINS: Just to make clear that again, I think the Massage Therapy's Association's position, or largely is, that Thai yoga is massage. So, you know, there's a debate over this and I think you'll hear from them again. That's why I'm trying to work this out but certainly this bill is not intended to impact someone's legitimate profession, yoga practicing, okay?

So I just want to make that clear.

REP. PHIL MILLER: Thank you for your answers and thank you, Madam Chair.

SENATOR GERRATANA: Certainly. Before you leave, we have one more question, I believe.
Representative Zoni.

REP. GROGINS: Sure.

REP. ZONI: Thank you, Madam Chair. Not to put too fine a point on it, but in the instruction of Thai yoga, are you required to physically touch your client?

JEANINE OBUCHAY: Yes. In fact, in all of my yoga classes I physically touch my students. In every class. And in the practice of Thai yoga, and I should back up for a moment.

Let me say not required. You can actually have a Thai yoga session without touching. That can actually happen.

But generally, yes. You're touching and putting people into yoga poses and into stretches, just as I do in my classes.

REP. ZONI: That being said, would it be unreasonable for someone to confuse Thai yoga with Thai yoga massage?

JEANINE OBURCHAY: It would be unusual? I'm sorry, what was the adjective?

REP. ZONI: Would it be unreasonable for someone --

JEANINE OBURCHAY: It would be unreasonable to confuse Thai yoga with massage. Yes.

REP. ZONI: Thai yoga massage.

JEANINE OBURCHAY: I don't know what you're referring to? I practice Thai yoga, so if you're referring to massage, like western massage, yes, it would be very unusual to confuse it.

And I think you know, to receive either modality, depending again on who you receive it from, because a licensed massage therapist may of course inform his practice with what he's learned at massage school.

I, of course, not having gone to massage school so I'm not going to massage my clients. I'm not going to (inaudible) with anything other than yoga, which is what I've been trained for.

REP. GROGINS: Just for clarification, also, Representative. There was actually two words in there, it's Thai yoga is there and Thai yoga massage is still in there.

This would delete Thai yoga. Again, we may come to some agreement where we leave Thai yoga in. Again, Thai yoga massage is not the issue.

That's in there. That's not been proposed to be taken out. It was Thai yoga. But we may come to some sort of agreement where we say Thai yoga and then put a qualifier unless the person can show a certificate and a certain number of hours and insurance and so on. We may come to that agreement.

But the original proposal was not to touch Thai yoga massage. Only the words Thai yoga.

REP. ZONI: Thank you.

SENATOR GERRATANA: Thank you. I don't think there are any more questions. Thank you both for being here today.

REP. GROGINS: Thank you.

JEANINE OBURCHAY: Thank you.

SENATOR GERRATANA: Next is David Kiel. Welcome, Mr. Kiel. Just so that everyone knows, of course, that your name went into the record when you testify and also since we're in the public portion, that there will be a three-minute time limit and you can turn the microphone on. There's a little button there. There you go. Welcome.

DAVID KIEL: My name is David Kiel and my proposal was to have paper towels in all public rest rooms for the very reason that germs are very, very dangerous. They make people sick. They can even cause death.

Now, my proposal is not to eliminate the air drying machines. Those are fine, but correct me if I'm wrong, but I think the present state law states that all public rest rooms must have either paper towels or a machine.

REP. JOHNSON: Okay. Representative Fawcett. Welcome and please state your name for the record.

REP. FAWCETT: Good afternoon. I am Representative Kim Fawcett from the Town of Fairfield and it's nice to be before your Committee for a third time in 2013. I just love it here. Maybe I'll join your Committee next year, but this is my last time before you and I have two bills that I am interested in supporting and talking with you just a little bit about today.

HB6519

The first is House Bill 6243, which Representative Grogins very articulately just spoke with you about. I have submitted a written statement for the record, but I'm just in summary, it was in reference to the massage parlor bill that was successfully passed last year.

And really what has happened is, this bill has been too successful. Just this week in Fairfield, an establishment, massage parlor, Deirdre's was closed down because it was illegal, an illegal front for prostitution in my town.

This was the intent of the legislation we passed last year, so the good news is we did something great up here and we gave a tool to our law enforcement officers to allow them to start to shut these parlors down.

But unfortunately, over the past six months the very same piece of legislation is being used to harass a yoga studio, Yoga for Everyone, just blocks from Deirdre's, the massage parlor, and Yoga for Everyone offers a variety of yoga classes every day of the week, including Thai yoga.

The Department of Public Health has been very aggressive over the past six months, surprisingly

aggressive, in threatening the yoga studio and the instructors there, and because of that, they've seen a 30 percent reduction, some of the teachers, a 30 percent reduction in their weekly and monthly earnings.

It was absolutely not the intention of the legislation to be this successful. We did approach the Department of Public Health and ask them to focus on the legislative intent of the original bill, which was to focus on massage parlors, but they feel because the word Thai yoga is in there, it also justifies reaching out to and regulating Thai and Thai yoga and yoga facilities.

The contrast is telling because on that one street there's a massage parlor and blocks away, a yoga studio.

I think really what has happened here is the bill from last year has opened a scope of practice, a scope of practice conflict that we did not intend to open.

What really is going on here is a conversation between massage therapists and yoga practitioners, and that was not the legislative intent of the bill, and I would just encourage this Committee to make the technical fix this year so that our yoga teachers can get back to work.

And if you intend to open that conversation possibly in 2014, you could have a true conversation about the scope of practice for massage therapists and yoga practitioners.

I also wanted to put in my two cents of support for the 6519, which is the labeling of genetically engineered foods. I am very aware that you have an incredible scope of people

providers available would be decreased and they wouldn't be going back. That would be a strain to the EMS systems and other issues as a whole.

I'm not going to reiterate what some of the other providers have said, but I would be happy to answer any questions that I could to maybe come to a better solution.

REP. JOHNSON: Thank you so much and I think that's what we're trying to work towards today, and I appreciate you coming to be here and your testimony.

Does anyone have any questions?

Okay. Well, thank you so much, have a good evening.

Next, we're going to hear testimony on House Bill 6243. And the first one we have is Rick Haesche. He left? Okay.

Fran Ray.

Welcome and please state your name for the record.

FRAN RAY: Hi, thank you, Madam Speaker -- Chair -- Madam Chair. My name is Fran Ray. I reside in Fairfield and work there. I am a licensed massage therapist, 22 years now. I am -- I specialize in Thai massage -- Thai yoga for 16 years now, and I'm licensed in Connecticut and New York. I'm nationally certified, and I am also a certified yoga instructor.

I'm here to oppose Bill 6243 because of this thing that's been happening in the yoga community, and it's been happening all over. I have six -- six yoga instructors in my local area who are unlicensed and have been performing Thai

massage, Thai yoga, on people and this numbers growing rapidly. And the yoga community is petitioning to delete Thai yoga from the general statutes because they want to use the name Thai yoga to perform Thai massage.

Thai massage, Thai body -- Thai massage -- I'm sorry, Thai massage, Thai yoga massage, Thai yoga body work, Thai yoga, are all the same thing. Deleting Thai yoga from the general statutes will open a back door for the yoga community to continue practicing Thai massage under the guise of yoga without a massage license.

Yoga is a solo practice. All styles of yoga are actively performed by the participant. The participant of yoga actively performs postures on their own without assistance. Guidance is given to the participant from a yoga instructor.

Thai yoga is always Thai massage at the yoga studios. Deleting Thai yoga is going to do more than open this loophole. It is going to blast it open for the yoga instructors to perform Thai massage without a massage license.

We have -- is that my three minutes?

REP. JOHNSON: Yes, summarize.

FRAN RAY: So what I'd like to say being a both a -- a Thai massage therapist, Thai yoga therapist and a yoga -- certified yoga instructor is that a massage license assures the public a massage therapist has a standardized level of education and proves proficiency by passing a state exam, also, it assures the public that the therapist continues a standard -- some standardized form of education.

Yoga certification has absolutely no standardized level of education. There is no proving of one's

proficiency on -- of it by examination. Yoga instructors have no training in touch therapy. They have rudimentary overview of anatomy, no training in pathology or physiology. They are trained in yoga not in massage therapy -- not in massage therapy or touch therapy.

And what -- what I'm seeing has -- that's been happening is -- several years ago, I've noticed that there were two -- a couple of people doing Thai massage in my area, and they were under the radar, I mean I never said anything. I did speak to them individually suggesting they get a massage license so they can practice what they love. And -- but now over the years and this is just in my little neck of the woods where -- a two-mile radius from where I work, there are six unlicensed yoga instructors doing Thai massage, and they're -- and this number is growing rapidly.

There is no standardized education that they receive. The woman who spoke earlier, the constituent of Kim Fawcett, who claims that she does Thai yoga and that it's different from Thai massage or Thai body work. I have in -- in my packet, I have some enclosures and here is a -- just as one example, a bio on Janine.

Janine began training in Thai yoga body work in 2006 and has since --

REP. JOHNSON: Who -- who -- who is Janine?

FRAN RAY: This is the woman that --

REP. JOHNSON: Okay. I don't really want you to testify about somebody else --

You're here to just to provide testimony about what -- what -- I don't -- if we get into testifying about other people --

FRAN RAY: -- I apologize, I apologize

REP. JOHNSON: So --

FRAN RAY: I would just like to state that -- that the yoga community is not being fully transparent on what they're practicing as Thai yoga --

REP. JOHNSON: Okay.

FRAN RAY: -- because it is certainly Thai massage. They're taking the training -- I could show you -
-

REP. JOHNSON: Okay. Well, did you submit your testimony?

FRAN RAY: I did, yes.

REP. JOHNSON: Okay, very good. Thank you so much.

Are there any questions?

Thank you so much for your wait and your testimony. It's much appreciated.

FRAN RAY: Thank you.

REP. JOHNSON: Nicole Arel.

Welcome and please state your name for the record.

NICOLE AREL: Certainly, thank you.

My name is Nicole Arel. I'm a licensed massage therapist here in Connecticut. I am also a registered yoga teacher in Connecticut. I have my massage business here with offices in West Hartford and Manchester. And I do, exclusively,

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practice Thai yoga since January 20, 2012. So I'm here to speak regarding HB 6243.

I have studied, practiced, received, exchanged Thai yoga with other practitioners since 2004, while I was still in massage school. And I have studied Thai yoga or Thai massage across the United States and in Thailand. Even if the layperson were to look on Wikipedia and look up Thai massage or Thai yoga or Thai yoga massage or Thai yoga body work, it all comes up as the same. The technical name that you would have in Thailand would be Nuad Bo'Rarn, and that is the technical term that they use to describe all Thai body work.

They do have a style of individual practice called Reusi Dat Ton, and Reusi Dat Ton, would be most similar to what we would recognize as hatha yoga or an individual yoga practice, and I do practice that as well.

And the big differentiation between what a yoga instructor does is that the students are active and an instructor, such as myself, might come over and do a touch assist, which might just as much as a finger touch or it might be as much as putting my hands on a body and actually helping to lift or adjust someone in their own space, in their own practice. When I am performing Thai yoga, when I'm performing Thai body work on someone, there are passive recipients and they are paying me for the service of bending, stretching, compressing range of motioning working the center, the energy lines of the body and opening them up and bringing relaxation, better range of motion, reduce pain.

The work is beautiful, and it is transformative, and it does come from the roots of Buddhism, and it is performed from a place of mecca or loving kindness. And so I absolutely understand why

people receive it and almost just fall in love with it, become addicted to it, want to do it and just feel a calling from their hearts to give this work. I absolutely understand that but truly here, in the State of Connecticut, we do have statutes that identify massage and they're clarified in my testimony that I submitted.

I did include the general statutes so I won't read that, but what you're doing when you put hands on a body and manipulate soft tissue is massage in the State of Connecticut. And so to take the words Thai yoga out of the statutes would -- or to take it out of this bill would then allow that loophole to exist for yoga therapists to come in performing body work, performing massage without having that in the guidelines.

REP. JOHNSON: Thank you for your testimony. And so do you think that if someone has the -- if they have the license, as we passed in last session in the 2012 Session, the license then you could do this Thai yoga, as well.

NICOLE AREL: Absolutely.

REP. JOHNSON: So that's what you're saying.

NICOLE AREL: Absolutely.

REP. JOHNSON: I see and that's because there's a touch involved?

NICOLE AREL: Correct, correct.

REP. JOHNSON: And --

NICOLE AREL: -- because there's a manipulation. It's more than a just a touch. It's manipulation.

REP. JOHNSON: But they're not just being instructed like a yoga instructor would instruct.

NICOLE AREL: Correct.

REP. JOHNSON: They're -- they're -- and why would they touch the person?

NICOLE AREL: Because you actually perform the work in silence so there would be no opportunity for instruction. It's not like, Okay, place your right foot here; place your right hand there. It's not like that. You come to the person. They're lying supine -- on their back -- on a mat on the floor, they're fully clothed and you come in and you start to work with your hands. And it's very rhythmic and you start at their feet and then you work up the body and you're twisting them and you're taking their knee and you're putting it their chest and then you're releasing it and then you're putting it back to their chest with their exhale and then you release it, then you're twisting the knee across the body and releasing it.

And these are all moves that a yoga instructor would not apply to a student but would rather say to a student, you know, bend your right knee, place your right foot upside your left leg, bring your arms out to T, now as you exhale drop your right knee across to the left side of your body. And the students would perform that act.

Once they're actively engaged in that posture, I, the teacher, might come over and help to deepen it a little bit or maybe give a small adjustment by, kind of, taking the hip and just encouraging it a little bit deeper, encouraging the shoulder to the mat, but I wouldn't come over to someone, take their leg and just place them into that posture in a yoga class.

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REP. JOHNSON: Okay.

Representative Srinivasan.

REP. SRINIVASAN: Thank you, Madam Chair.

Thank you for your testimony.

So as I understand it from after what you just gave as your testimony, Thai massage or yoga -- Thai yoga massage, no matter whatever choice of words we use because you went back the very roots itself, which I cannot repeat. I can't remember that.

NICOLE AREL: Nuad Bo-Rarn.

REP. SRINIVASAN: But all of that, in your opinion, is massage?

NICOLE AREL: Correct.

REP. SRINIVASAN: So whatever is applicable to a massage parlor in terms of rules, regulations, licensing, so on and so forth, should apply to anybody who does Thai yoga or Thai yoga massage or any of those that apply?

NICOLE AREL: Yes. In the State of Connecticut, I believe that is absolutely true because we do have massage statutes. There are states that don't, and they allow people to practice Thai yoga without having a massage license. And that's certainly fine for them because they don't have the same rules, regulations, and laws that we do for a massage therapists. I believe here in Connecticut, we need to maintain that standard.

REP. SRINIVASAN: And just a follow-up, for a person who does yoga alone --

NICOLE AREL: Uh-huh.

REP. SRINIVASAN: Without the -- the Thai massage part of that component at all then that's different that yoga alone, yoga classes because there there's no physical touch. There's -- there's in a -- in a pure yoga routine.

NICOLE AREL: There -- there can be physical touch. There actually is a yoga instructor right now, there is a big debate in the yoga community worldwide about whether or not yoga instructors should touch students because they aren't trained and they don't have depth of training, in terms of pathology, kinesiology, anatomy and physiology. So as a massage therapist teaching yoga, I wanted my yoga instruction certification, I went, I achieved that. And now when I'm in a class and I'm teaching and I do an assist -- and that's what we would call it, assisted yoga, or even if I'm doing a private with someone, I have them actively put their body into a position and then I might encourage a little bit more depth, but I would not actively place them in that posture while they're passive.

When you receive Thai yoga, you're a passive recipient. When you're taking a yoga class or you're taking a private yoga instruction with a teacher, you're an active participant. And the teacher, though they may put their hands on you --

REP. SRINIVASAN: Right.

NICOLE AREL: -- is not manipulating you.

REP. SRINIVASAN: Thank you for that clarification.

NICOLE AREL: Absolutely, thank you.

REP. SRINIVASAN: Thank you, Madam Chair.

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REP. JOHNSON: Thank you.

Any additional questions?

Thank you so much.

NICOLE AREL: Thank you very much, have a nice evening.

REP. JOHNSON: Yes, you, too.

Scott Raymond followed and by William Gibbs.

A VOICE: Bill's not here.

REP. JOHNSON: Okay.

Well, thank you so much for your perseverance. Welcome and please state your name for the record.

SCOTT RAYMOND: Sure, thank you. My name is Scott Raymond. Good evening -- instead of good morning, Senator Gerratana is -- is unavailable currently but Representative Johnson and the rest of the Public Health Committee.

Again, my name is Scott Raymond. I am the immediate past president of the American Massage Therapy Association, Connecticut Chapter, and I am currently government relations chair. I own the Market Square Wellness Center in Newington Connecticut. I am a Thai yoga practitioner. I'm a embodyoga teacher/trainer. I've gone through teacher training for embody style yoga, as well.

Last -- I -- we can't support Bill Number 6243 the way it's written currently. The way it's written currently is removing the term or the verbiage Thai yoga, quote/unquote. I understand that leaving the verbiage, Thai yoga massage,

Thai yoga body work will stay in but Thai yoga is just another name for Thai massage.

Last year, we passed Public Act 12-64, and as Representative Grogins stated last time around, it was very, very successful. I was able -- they were able to close massage parlors that were sexually-oriented businesses that was the reason why that public act was passed. That was passed to separate a sexually-oriented business from the healthcare profession of massage therapy. That's the reason why it was passed.

So the words, "Shiatsu," "acupressure," "Thai yoga," "Thai massage" and "Thai yoga massage" were all added to those statutes, and the legislative intent was to close the loopholes that those sexually-oriented businesses wouldn't normally use those Eastern styles of body work to, kind of, disguise what they were actually doing.

So all forms of Eastern styles of body work, like I mentioned before, really should hold the same standards as Western styles of bodywork, which is normally called Swedish massage. So the massage therapy statutes really do kind of oversee the Western style of bodywork, but we add those Eastern styles to bring them together.

The term "Thai yoga" is used to describe Thai massage, very similar to the current statutes the way the words "masseur," "masseur," "massages," "massage practitioner," those are all thrown into the statutes to cover the word "massage therapist." Thai yoga, Thai yoga massage, Thai yoga bodywork were all thrown in to cover the exact same thing. That's the reason why they're put there specifically and independently of each other so then somebody really couldn't use the verbiage and try to get around the loophole.

Nikki, did discuss what yoga was. She did discuss what Thai yoga is so I'm not going to bother wasting everybody's time. You have long night ahead of you still. I do look forward to meeting with Representative Grogins to try and -- to try to clarify some language that I really -- this -- that -- that verbiage needs to stay in.

REP. JOHNSON: Thank you so much for your testimony, and I'd appreciate it if you would meet with Representative Grogins to try and help us out with making sure that we all our on the same page with respect to this because there's a lot of differing views. And I appreciate your staying and providing your testimony.

Are there any questions?

Thank you so much.

SCOTT RAYMOND: Very good. Thank you very much.

REP. JOHNSON: Thank you.

The next we're going to be testifying now on Senate Bill 966. And the first person on that bill is Carrie Graham followed by Vicky Graham and then Summer Lerch.

Thank you.

Welcome and thanks for your perseverance and please state your name for the record and just proceed.

VICKY GRAHAM: Hi, I'm Vicky Graham. Carrie Graham is not available. I was also scheduled to testify. My name is Vicky Graham. I'm the immediate past president of the Connecticut Athletic Trainers Association, and I'm here to testify in support of Senate Bill 966, which would establish a pilot program to collect secondary school injury --

**JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS**

**PUBLIC
HEALTH
PART 10
3066-3376**

2013

Testimony of Jeanine Oburchay of Bridgeport in support of
HB 6243 AN ACT MAKING A TECHNICAL CHANGE TO THE
STATUTE CONCERNING ADVERTISING BY MASSAGE THERAPISTS

Public Health Committee Public Hearing

Friday, March 15, 2013

Representative Johnson, Senator Gerratana and members of the Public Health Committee, for the record my name is Jeanine Oburchay and I am submitting testimony in favor of H.B. No. 6243 AN ACT MAKING A TECHNICAL CHANGE TO THE STATUTE CONCERNING ADVERTISING BY MASSAGE THERAPISTS.

I am in favor of the bill that will remove the language "thai yoga" from section 20-206g of the general statutes. I am a resident of Bridgeport, and am grateful for the bill that has cleaned up my neighborhood of the illegal/illicit "massage" parlors. However, I don't think the legislative intent of the original bill was to harm my business as a Yoga instructor and Thai Yoga practitioner. And in fact, to my knowledge not one illicit "massage" parlor in the state of CT has ever advertised the phrase "thai yoga".

I want to thank you for taking on this seemingly Solomonic task of trying to determine if thai yoga is yoga, or if it falls under the purview of massage. I had hoped to come here with more of my colleagues who are interested in the same thing as me. We are a loosely knit group of fellow practitioners and yoga teachers who share a love of the art of thai yoga. We have no lobby, we have no political power. And some are so tired of being bullied, harassed and threatened with their very livelihood by Licensed Massage Therapists Rick Haeschke and Fran Ray, among others, who have both repeatedly sent threatening letters and complained to the state health department about our perfectly legal behavior, that they've been intimidated into staying away. When state legislators such as Jack Hennessy (a Licensed Massage Therapist himself), who have opposed this bill tell me to stay away from a meeting with other lawmakers to discuss the

bill because he would support it, when in fact he was adamantly fighting it, that dishonesty and disingenuousness creates a specter of fear and intimidation, and good people stay quiet.

I have practiced and studied yoga for more than 15 years, and practiced and studied Thai Yoga for more than 10 years. I have an "Experienced" 500-hour certification in my yoga teaching, as determined by the Yoga Alliance. I have studied yoga teaching for considerably more than those 500 hours. I have also studied the ancient art of Thai Yoga for more than 500 hours. Beyond my required training, I have done a significant amount of extra training, including substantial training in anatomy (cadaver labs), along with the work I do as a dedicated assistant to a teacher of Anatomy/Yoga Therapy, and author of Yoga Anatomy text books. I am, and will always be, a *student* of yoga.

In yoga, there are countless styles of the practice. The most modern styles cover such a broad spectrum that you can take a Bikram class and never be touched by a teacher, and yet in an Iyengar class or many forms of Hatha yoga, hands-on adjustments are paramount. -I was trained in a style that uses a lot of hands-on adjustments. And in my training I learned the benefit of a little extra help in stretching. Not to make me go further into the stretch, but to align myself properly so that I could feel it more deeply and more safely. One common thread in all yoga teaching and practice is "ahimsa" or non-harming. Ahimsa is not just something we think about once in a while. The practice of ahimsa governs my life.

I came to Thai Yoga with the same mentality. I have studied with several different teachers throughout the years, but when I began to study, one of my teachers was Kam Thye Chow, who studied directly with Asokananda (born Harald Brust), who is widely credited as being one of the people to bring this practice to the west. I was drawn to Kam Thye and to the practice because of the intention of "metta" or spiritual loving kindness, that rules every session. To me, the practice

is about stretching the body into yoga poses in a way that allows the yogi to feel, not only his or her own body but also the intention behind the movement. And it's also about stretching and awakening sen lines, or energetic lines in the body, to bring about more clarity and more peace. So not only is it not the same physical practice as modern day "massage," there is a spiritual element associated with Thai Yoga that is very separate from modern day "massage".

(an additional difference from massage – thai yoga is practiced fully dressed, typically in yoga clothes, on mats on the floor)

The art of "thai yoga," like the practice of yoga, is thousands of years old. And like yoga, it originated in India, and then was brought over to Thailand. And like yoga, there are thousands of years of content. And thousands of years of styles. So with all that content and all those different styles, it would be the height of arrogance for me (or anyone) to tell you that I (or they) know exactly how it was handed down and for what intention. We have been told it was handed down through families, with elders teaching the children in Thailand. And we know that modern practitioners in Thailand are considered healers. But "thai yoga" the phrase, is a Western construct, mostly promoted by western tourists in Thailand.

It is NOT massage, as defined by western massage therapists. It has no relation to the commonly known western types of massage (Swedish, soft tissue manipulation, rubbing and manipulating muscles). In fact, I recommend to a lot of my yoga students to receive deep tissue massage to open up muscles that are chronically tight and to improve the movement of fascia. I myself receive a deep tissue massage from a Licensed Massage Therapist once every two weeks. And I receive Active Release Therapy (ART) from a Licensed Chiropractor every two weeks to manipulate tight muscles. When I can afford it, I even go to a Rolfer, who is a Licensed Massage Therapist. But what I do when I'm adjusting yoga students and what I do when I used to offer thai yoga is very different from all of this, and

doesn't even begin to approach the same modality. I stretch my clients with a focus on opening sen lines and I move them into yoga poses so that they can experience the poses in their bodies.

I have heard the people who represent the Massage Therapy Association say that "all stretching and range of motion is massage." To legislate stretching and movement would mean that the State would need to legislate every fitness instructor, every sports coach, every ballet teacher. I am also a diving coach at the High School and National age group levels. I put my divers into yoga stretches every day. I most decidedly do not massage them. If they need a massage, I direct them to a Licensed Massage Therapist.

I have heard the Licensed Massage Therapists who are arguing against this bill say that thai yoga practitioners are a threat to public health because we have no massage training. I would argue, conversely, that that is like saying massage therapists who practice thai yoga are a threat to public health if they have no yoga training. To prevent yoga practitioners/teachers from practicing this ancient art of stretching *in yoga poses* and energy balancing is to set a very dangerous precedent around all movement and athletic endeavors in the state.

In every endeavor I set out to do, like I'll assume, the Massage Therapists here, I work for excellence. I educate myself continually. And yet despite my commitment to educating myself, I am neither arrogant, nor reckless. I hold insurance for my yoga teaching, I hold insurance for my diving team and each individual diver, and I held insurance for my thai yoga practice when I had one.

I know that you all want to keep the public safe, and I do as well. I wish that we could legislate quality, in every endeavor. I know of some very experienced Massage Therapists whose table I would never get on, or never get on again, for fear for my safety. And I know of some very experienced yoga teachers whose classes I would avoid at all costs. I even know of some diving coaches who I would never

recommend to anyone. Sad to say, no amount of misguided regulation will fix that.

But please don't take away the livelihood of people who are well-trained and mean no harm at all. With all this said, I would ask you to tread mindfully. Please allow us to continue to keep the tradition of thai yoga alive by removing the words "thai yoga" from the bill.

Testimony of Robert Ortner of Norwalk in support of
HB 6243 AN ACT MAKING A TECHNICAL CHANGE TO THE
 STATUTE CONCERNING ADVERTISING BY MASSAGE THERAPISTS

Public Health Committee Public Hearing

Friday, March 15, 2013

Representative Johnson, Senator Gerratana and members of the Public Health Committee, for the record my name is Robert Ortner and I am submitting testimony in favor of H.B. No. 6243 AN ACT MAKING A TECHNICAL CHANGE TO THE STATUTE CONCERNING ADVERTISING BY MASSAGE THERAPISTS.

I offer my comments in support on the bill HB6243 The issue I want to emphasize is that Thai Yoga is NOT massage

I have pasted in a segment (see below) taken from the mass email the massage lobby AMTA sent out to their members (some of whom support us in our efforts to retain our right to practice Thai Yoga)

The massage lobby's description is one sided in it's inference, and clearly demonstrates a general lack of knowledge and understanding about the practice and process of yoga Looking only at the popular class form and not considering the vast library of techniques and practices that traditional yoga incorporates In addition the emerging field of Yoga Therapy, of which I am also a trained practitioner uses a broad pallet of techniques and methods in a hands on, one on one process. There are many movement arts, techniques, and modalities that define the area of wellness in which yoga and thai yoga are a part. I find it disheartening that yoga and by extension thai yoga which are among the oldest healing arts are so under attack I feel that the AMTA just wants to protect their market share using the state as their enforcer.

Like many of my colleagues, I am highly trained in Yoga, Yoga Therapy, and Thai Yoga I have studied long and hard and have spent considerable time and money learning my craft. I would welcome the licensing of yoga teachers, I feel they deserve the same recognition any other licensed field enjoys. The fact is that I have certifications and not a license but this is only because the state does not offer it not because I am unqualified to practice yoga and thai yoga

I have added my rebuttal in bold italics

"The most clear difference between "Thai Yoga" and "Yoga" is passive versus active movement from the participant" ***There are more than a few styles of***

****Hatha Yoga that are completely passive in their application and practice i.e. Yin yoga, Swaroopa yoga, Phenix Rising yoga therapy, among others. These methods allow the practitioner to open and manipulate their own soft tissue using passive stillness as the vehicle. Further more all Hatha Yoga is soft tissue manipulation.***

- "Thai Yoga is done on a mat with the recipient passive and the practitioner performing systematic and scientific manipulation and treatment of the soft tissues of the body, by use of pressure, friction, stroking, percussion, kneading, vibration, range of motion and nonspecific stretching.. It is done one on one, just like any other style of massage therapy (western or eastern styles)" ***Traditionally yoga was done one on one where a master would work with and guide a practitioner in many areas of body, mind, and soul. Yoga is both an art and a science.***
- "Yoga, no matter which style, is done actively by the participant or participants with guidance from the instructor over an entire classroom" ***Again, this is inaccurate There are more than a few styles of Hatha Yoga that are completely passive in their application and practice (see above) Traditionally yoga classes as such did not exist, it was practiced as a life style which has and still does go much deeper than the physical postures that most outsiders consider yoga. "Yoga requires an instructor" No it absolutely does not require an instructor, even in a group setting the Mysore self practice requires no instructor. "but thai yoga requires a practitioner" Phenix Rising as well as Yoga Therapy both require a practitioner that are very hands on "What these instructors are doing is "assisted yoga" and it should be stated as such. It must not be called Thai Yoga" Thai Yoga is assisted Yoga, period. There are many parts of the world that have their unique forms of yoga, yoga and the movement arts and sciences are not exclusive to India alone and I practice many different forms.***
- ***Thai Yoga is the Yoga practice at heart and is NOT massage. The massage industry must not be allowed to dictate what the art and science of yoga can do.***

(*) Hatha yoga is a term used to describe all forms and styles of movement yoga

Thank you

Robert Ortner

* E-RYT-500 Yoga Teacher certification with Don and Amba Stapleton;

* IYT-Integrative Yoga Therapist training with Joseph Le Page;

* Yoga of the Heart, yoga therapy training with Nischala Joy Devi, the former director of Yoga

for the Dr. Dean Ornish Heart Program for Reversing Heart Disease and co-founder of the

Commonweal Cancer Help Program;

* Thai Yoga certification with Jonas Westring;

* Pilates Mat Certification at the PhysicalMind Institute.

Testimony of Peter Meadow, DC of Lyme in support of

HB 6243 AN ACT MAKING A TECHNICAL CHANGE TO THE STATUTE
CONCERNING ADVERTISING BY MASSAGE THERAPISTS

Public Health Committee Public Hearing

Friday, March 15, 2013

Representative Johnson, Senator Gerratana and members of the Public Health Committee, for the record my name is Peter Meadow, DC, and I am submitting testimony in favor of H.B. No. 6243 AN ACT MAKING A TECHNICAL CHANGE TO THE STATUTE CONCERNING ADVERTISING BY MASSAGE THERAPISTS.

I am in favor of the bill that will remove the language "Thai Yoga" from section 20-206g of the general statutes. I am a resident of Lyme, CT and operate a private Chiropractic practice in Farmington, CT. I have employed Licensed Massage Therapists as part of my professional services for many years.

More recently, I have become familiar with the skills of Thai Yoga both personally and professionally. In my experience, long time, dedicated Yoga teachers have excellent skills to become successful Thai Yoga Practitioners.

In my opinion, there is no correlation between illicit/illegal sex shop activities and Thai Yoga practitioner's works. To be effective for an educated consumer, Thai Yoga practitioners need to be certified and insured.

Thank you.

Peter Meadow, DC

59 – 2 Ely's Ferry Rd

Lyme, Ct 06371



The Chiropractic Center of Farmington
Dr. Peter Meadow

Testimony of Peter Meadow, DC of Lyme in support of
HB 6243 AN ACT MAKING A TECHNICAL CHANGE TO THE STATUTE
CONCERNING ADVERTISING BY MASSAGE THERAPISTS

Public Health Committee Public Hearing

Friday, March 15, 2013

Representative Johnson, Senator Gerratana and members of the Public Health Committee, for the record my name is Peter Meadow, DC, and I am submitting testimony in favor of H.B. No. 6243 AN ACT MAKING A TECHNICAL CHANGE TO THE STATUTE CONCERNING ADVERTISING BY MASSAGE THERAPISTS.

I am in favor of the bill that will remove the language "Thai Yoga" from section 20-206g of the general statutes. I am a resident of Lyme, CT and operate a private Chiropractic practice in Farmington, CT. I have employed Licensed Massage Therapists as part of my professional services for many years.

More recently, I have become familiar with the skills of Thai Yoga both personally and professionally. In my experience, long time, dedicated Yoga teachers have excellent skills to become successful Thai Yoga Practitioners.

In my opinion, there is no correlation between illicit/illegal sex shop activities and Thai Yoga practitioner's works. To be effective for an educated consumer, Thai Yoga practitioners need to be certified and insured.

Thank you.

Peter Meadow, DC

Testimony of Leslie Fish of Unionville, CT in support of

HB 6243 AN ACT MAKING A TECHNICAL CHANGE TO THE STATUTE
CONCERNING ADVERTISING BY MASSAGE THERAPISTS

Public Health Committee Public Hearing

Friday, March 15, 2013

Representative Johnson, Senator Gerratana and members of the Public Health Committee, for the record my name is Leslie Fish and I am submitting testimony in favor of H.B. No. 6243 AN ACT MAKING A TECHNICAL CHANGE TO THE STATUTE CONCERNING ADVERTISING BY MASSAGE THERAPISTS.

I support the bill that will remove the language "Thai Yoga" from section 20-206g of the general statutes. I do not believe that the practice of Thai Yoga is a Public Health liability related to the recent actions involved with removing illegal/illicit "sex shops." There are significant differences between massage practice on naked bodies applying oil and manually manipulating muscles vs the practice of Thai Yoga on fully clothed clients for energy balancing using compression and active stretching

I have more than 30 years of yoga practice, 15 years of yoga teaching experience, and have studied of Phoenix Rising Yoga Therapy as well as numerous approaches for assisting poses for greater alignment. I have developed a positive and strong foundation to effectively utilize Thai Yoga techniques. I have studied Thai yoga in the US with two different teachers and have traveled to Thailand to learn from the source culture.

While I am not an expert, I was delighted and surprised to discover that the sacred teachings in Thailand present a simple series of basic movements that are most effective when offered from a place of meditative presence and respect. Advanced poses are not considered a requirement. Therefore,

Thai Yoga can be approached successfully from the Yoga tradition. A massage therapist who has migrated away from Western schooled techniques into Thai Yoga and who is not intimately involved with Yoga practice is operating at a distinct disadvantage.

My students have benefited from the assisted stretching techniques offered in Thai Yoga. I have recommended that they seek out a Licensed Massage Therapist for those situations when manual manipulation of muscle tightness would be helpful. Without a doubt, in my experience, those who have had a direct experience of Thai Yoga communicate that the result is vastly different from traditional massage.

I am certified and insured for my professional activities. I continue to study with wise teachers who support my work and to whom I am guided to advance my skills. I humbly respect the teachings of the Thai Yoga tradition and honor the wisdom of the ancient lineage from the time of the Buddha.

The use of terminology related to Thai Yoga has no correlation to the current statute protecting public health for "sex shop" activities.

Thank you.

Testimony of Jennifer Leavitt of West Hartford in support of
HB 6243 AN ACT MAKING A TECHNICAL CHANGE TO THE STATUTE
CONCERNING ADVERTISING BY MASSAGE THERAPISTS

Public Health Committee Public Hearing

Friday, March 15, 2013

Representative Johnson, Senator Gerratana and members of the Public Health Committee, for the record my name is Jennifer Leavitt and I am submitting testimony in favor of H.B. No. 6243 AN ACT MAKING A TECHNICAL CHANGE TO THE STATUTE CONCERNING ADVERTISING BY MASSAGE THERAPISTS.

I am the manager of a large and very active yoga studio in West Hartford. I am also a tax payer and proud resident of this city. Although I can't be there in person for the public hearing, I did call both my State Senator Beth Bye and my State Rep Joe Verrengia in support of the above bill.

I have had the opportunity to work with and experience the work of Thai Yoga practitioners. Before I get into the nature and quality of their work, let me put the framework, as I understand it, around the original inclusion of these terms in the licensure statute.

It is an unfortunate reality that individuals use the title massage therapist or massage centers to cover for illicit activity. Everyone who has a television is aware of that fact. Laws that tighten and regulate licensure for the practice of massage do so in order to specifically target the unlawful use of this term.

Tightening the regulations around massage therapist licensing to exclude people who would misuse the terms, or, worse yet, use these terms to cover for illicit, criminal, or immoral activity makes sense. Prohibiting the valuable work of certified, insured practitioners does not.

In no sense was this the spirit or intent of the licensing law. And I know that this governing body does not wish to imperil its hard working citizens, but instead hopes to put appropriate guidelines and boundaries in place.

The Thai yoga practitioners I have worked with are not practicing massage in any traditional sense. Participants in sessions lie on mats on the floor, like in yoga. The participant is fully clothed, like in yoga. And the practitioners help with range of motion and stretching, like I do when I assist a yoga class.

These practitioners, my friends and colleagues among them, are certified insured providers. They practice in an open setting, offer their work proudly and are fully trained to do so. They need and deserve this technical change as professionals and as tax-paying residents.

It is an interesting side note that one of the main opponents to HB6243 owns a Thai Yoga school in the Newington area. He has accepted money (profited personally) by training many of these practitioners himself. It is disingenuous and disappointing that he subsequently turns around and takes administrative action against them when they practice what he has taught them in his Level One and Two trainings.

If I can be of any further assistance, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Joe Pandolfo
55 Riverview Rd.
Mansfield Center, CT
860-423-2646
joeLpan@sbcglobal.net

March 15, 2013

RE: Public Health Committee Proposed Committee Bill 6243,
An Act Making a Technical Change to the Statute Concerning Advertising by Massage Therapists

Dear Senator Gerratana, Representative Johnson, and Members of the Committee:

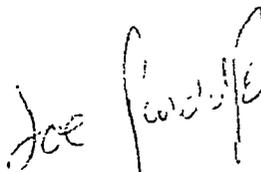
Thank you for the opportunity to provide public comment. I've been a long time patient and public advocate of integrative medicine and particularly Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine in our state, served as a member of the legislature's 2010 Sustinet Preventive Care Advisory Committee, and currently serve as a certified Tai Chi instructor in a CDC-endorsed community program for seniors fall prevention.

I'm writing today not in support or opposition to the proposed bill, but to encourage clear understanding and application of statute, as currently written and as may be revised by this bill or in the future.

I understand that the statutory language being considered for revision in 20-206g was originally intended to help prevent the operation of illegal massage parlors in the state. Given this intent, the language in 20-206g (as currently written, or as may be revised) shouldn't affect or restrict professionals whose own state licensure includes practices described in 20-206g; for example, licensed Acupuncturists practicing acupressure.

Thank you for your careful attention to this, and all matters of access to quality health care in our state.

Sincerely,



HB 6243

March 15, 2013

For Consideration by The Connecticut General Assembly Public Health Committee;

For the record, my name is Thomas Cushman. I am a registered and active voter in the town of Simsbury. I appreciate the opportunity to address HB6243. I am a Connecticut licensed massage therapist and Member of the American Massage Therapy Association. I am active in the Connecticut Chapter of the AMTA and was delighted last year to hear that HB5455 had been passed requiring, among other things, those professionally practicing Thai Yoga in the state of Connecticut to be required to have a Connecticut State massage therapy license. I have received Thai Yoga and it is a hands on process involving massage and bodywork. There is soft tissue manipulation with Thai Yoga which affects many physiology processes. The requirements of obtaining a CT State Massage Therapy License address that education. A certification alone, in my opinion, does not. HB6243 will reopen the loophole for such practices to continue. I can't begin to tell you how important it is that anyone practicing any eastern method of hands on health be required to have a Connecticut massage therapy license for the public at large. I am apposed to HB6243. I am in affirmation with HB5455 as is. Thank you for reading this testimony.

Thomas Cushman,
Simsbury, CT
CT Massage Therapy License# 006054
American Massage Therapy Association# 225971 National Certification Board for Therapeutic Massage
and Bodywork#
579222-09

Fran Ray
275 Country Rd
Fairfield, CT 06824

March 15, 2013

Public Health
Planning and Development Committee
Legislative Office Building
300 Capitol Avenue, Room 2100
Hartford, CT 06106

**Re: HB6243: AN ACT MAKING A TECHNICAL CHANGE TO THE STATUTE CONCERNING
ADVERTISING BY MASSAGE THERAPISTS** To make a technical change to section 20-206g of
the general statutes by deleting the references to "Thai yoga"

Dear Sir / Madam

I am a massage therapist for 22 years I am specialized in Thai Massage for 16 years, and am licensed
in Connecticut and New York I am also a Certified Yoga Instructor for 10 years

For the sake of public safety, please do not delete the references to "Thai Yoga."

We need to consider what is being requested by deleting "Thai Yoga" from the General Statutes Is the
Yoga community requesting to be able to do a style of yoga called "Thai Yoga?" Because if that is what
they are asking, then I agree they should have that

The Yoga community is petitioning to delete "Thai Yoga" from the General Statutes because they want to
use the the name "Thai Yoga" to perform Thai Massage Deleting "Thai Yoga" from the General Statutes
will open a backdoor for the Yoga community to continue practicing Thai Massage under the guise of
Yoga

Yoga is a solo practice All styles of Yoga are actively performed by the participant The participant of
Yoga actively performs postures on their own, without assistance Guidance is given to the participant
from a Yoga Instructor

Thai Yoga is always Thai Massage at these studios Deleting "Thai Yoga" is going to do more than open
this loophole, it is going to blast it open for these Yoga Instructors to perform Thai Massage without a
massage license We have the Yoga teachers right here, without proper training, already performing
Thai Massage/Thai Yoga on the public You will see this in the enclosures

I guarantee that if you go to a Yoga center and request Thai Yoga, you will not be having a Yoga class
You will not be instructed on how to correctly position yourself in the various postures You will find
yourself lying passive on a mat in a private room, and the practitioner will move your body in a
systematic and scientific manipulation and treatment of the soft tissues of the body, by use of pressure,
friction, stroking, percussion, kneading, vibration by manual or mechanical means, range of motion and
nonspecific stretching "

Public Act No 07-35, Section (d) states "'Massage therapy" means the systematic and scientific
manipulation and treatment of the soft tissues of the body, by use of pressure, friction, stroking,
percussion, kneading, vibration by manual or mechanical means, range of motion and nonspecific
stretching "

A massage license assures the public a Massage Therapist has a standardized level of education and proves proficiency by passing state examination. Thereafter, a licensed massage therapist is held to a certain standard of continuing education to maintain their licensure.

Yoga Certification has no standardized level of education. There is no proving of one's proficiency by examination. Yoga Instructors have no training in touch sensitivity, the most rudimentary overview of anatomy. No training in pathologies or physiology. They are trained in Yoga, not in massage therapy.

I have in the enclosures a Yoga/Thai Massage studio in Minnesota, showing Thai Yoga as one of the various names of Thai Massage. You will also see in the enclosures of descriptions (from Yoga studios) of Thai Yoga as being a hands on therapy.

Included in the enclosures is a Yoga studio in Fairfield, CT, Yoga For Everybody. The owner, Evelyne Serais, has been doing Thai Massage for several years as an unlicensed person. When she opened her studio a few years ago she hired other unlicensed persons who are Yoga instructors, to perform Thai Massage on the public. You will see that she is also beginning to lead workshops in Thai Yoga. So now you are having unlicensed people in Fairfield, CT instructing the general public in Thai Yoga Massage. The next step is they will certify people as a Thai Massage/Thai Yoga Practitioner.

If you decide to delete "Thai Yoga" from the General Statutes, you will bust open an enormous black hole. The Yoga community is going to start doing "Thai Yoga" massage on the general public with as little as 30 hours of training, and minimal knowledge of the deeper aspects of the human body.

The Yoga community is not being honest about what "Thai Yoga" is, and why the name "Thai Yoga" means so much to them.

"Thai Yoga" is not Yoga. "Thai Yoga" is Thai Massage.

A massage license is required in Connecticut to perform massage on the public for pay. Please, inform these Yoga instructors who want to perform "Thai Yoga," they need a massage license.

I thank you for your time, and your consideration.

Kind regards


Fran Ray
Licensed Massage Therapist
CT License #2446

enclosures

Enclosures:

- 1A Thai Yoga Bodywork Studio in Minnesota, show various names of Thai Massage, including Thai Yoga
- 1B Different names of Thai Massage, from Ananda Apfelbaum's Thai Massage Sacred Bodywork website

Yoga For Everybody, Fairfield CT

- 2A Advert for *Thai Yoga Therapy* with a photo showing a hands-on therapy (Thai Massage)
- 2B Advert for *Thai Yoga*. Jeanine, Evelyne, Robert and Greg are unlicensed
- 2C Bio: Greg Barringer. Unlicensed, practicing Thai Yoga Bodywork
- 2D Bio: Jeanine Oburchay. Unlicensed, practicing Assisted Yoga
Bio: Robert Ortner. Unlicensed, practicing Thai Yoga Bodywork
- 2E Bio: Evelyne Serais, Owner of *Yoga For Everybody*. Unlicensed, practicing Traditional Thai Yoga
- 2F Thai Yoga Therapy Workshop. Photo of Evelyne performing Thai Massage. Workshop taught by Evelyne, Jeanine, Robert, and Greg - all are unlicensed

Kaia Yoga, Westport, CT

- 3A Advert describing *Assisted Yoga* as a hands-on therapy. Photo is of Kam Thye Chow, a Thai Massage Instructor for Montreal, performing a move from Thai Massage
- 3B Bio: Gina Norman. Unlicensed, practicing Thai Yoga
Bio: Elizabeth Crisci. Unlicensed, practicing Thai Yoga

Elements Yoga, Darien, CT

- 4A Bio: Jeanine Oburchay. Unlicensed, practicing Thai Yoga Bodywork

Blackbird Yoga, Georgetown, CT

- 5A Advert for Assisted Yoga: A dynamic combination of myofascial stretching, joint mobilizaion..... *These are massage techniques!*
Jeanine Oburchay is the practitioner of these massage techniques, disguised as Yoga. She is unlicensed.

612-816-YOGA
tanya@thaiyogabodywork.com



Thai Yoga Bodywork Practitioner Trainings

Start your progress to becoming an RTT (Registered Thai Therapist)

Level 1: March 7-10 | Level 2: March 11-14 | Level 3: May 10-22
Level 4: Aug 25-28 | Level 5: May 15-18 | Level 6: Aug 21-24

[Thai Yoga Bodywork](#) | [Learn Thai Yoga](#) | [Yoga Classes](#) | [Energy Work](#) | [Workshops](#) | [Retreats](#) | [About Tanya](#) | [Gift Certs](#) | [Contact](#) | [Home](#)

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Be Move So Well

Thai Yoga Bodywork offers a variety of yoga classes, trainings and traditional healing modalities based in eastern philosophy and medicine in the Minneapolis area with certified instructor and therapist, Tanya (Borgenzahn) Sowards.

Thai Yoga Bodywork - also known as Thai Massage or Thai Yoga
Thai Massage Training - Group or Private Instruction
Yoga Classes - Vinyasa Flow, Ashtanga, Prenatal classes & privates
Energy Work - Healing Touch, Reiki, Chakra Balancing, & Seichem

• [Tanya's Yoga Classes](#)
• [Schedule a private yoga session](#)
Or visit our yoga studio website:
www.devanadivoga.com

500-Hr Thai Yoga Bodywork RTT Practitioner Training & Certificate Program

Created and Instructed by Tanya Borgenzahn Sowards, RTT, E-TYT, 500, CHTP & Reiki Master



Created and Instructed by Tanya Borgenzahn Sowards, RTT, E-TYT, 500, CHTP & Reiki Master

Thai Yoga Bodywork RTT Practitioner Certification Program
+Advanced Training for RTTs and TYB grads!
All courses are THAI and NCBTMB approved

Intro: Sat, April 14 10am-12pm
Level 1: Mon 15-17
Level 2: Tue 18-19
Level 3: Wed 20-21
Level 4: Aug 22-24
Level 5: May 15-18
Level 6 Advanced: Aug 21-24

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- Free Intro to Meditation
- Ashtanga Primary Series
- Ashtanga Second Series
- The Rocket 2 Workshop
- Monthly Restorative Workshops
- How to Create Your Home Yoga Practice
- Intro to Thai Yoga Bodywork
- Meditation of the Month
- Marketing Your Yoga/Wellness Business 101

[Click here to see desc and to register](#)

YOGA TEACHER TRAININGS for 2013

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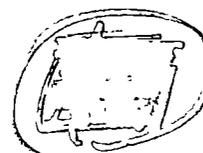
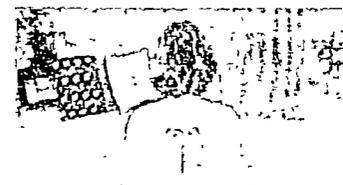
Spring Program starts March 15
Summer Program starts July 8
Fall Programs start Sept 26

500hr Advanced Program

Spring Program starts April 26
Fall Programs start Sept 11

IN THE PRESS:

<http://www.thaiyogabodywork.com/>





Frequently Asked Questions

- Home
- Thai Massage
- Ananda Apfelbaum
- Certifications
- Training
- Book
- Video
- Sessions
- Orders
- FAQ
- Contact

1 What do I need in order to practice Thai Massage professionally?

In order to practice Thai Massage professionally, you need a massage license from whatever state you will be working in. To get a massage license you need to go to massage school and then pass the licensing exam of the state you will be practicing in. Certification does not fulfill the need for a massage license. Certification is an extra credential to enhance your work as a licensed massage therapist, yoga teacher, pilates instructor, personal trainer, etc.

2. What is the difference between Thai Massage, Thai Yoga Massage, Traditional Thai Yoga Massage, Nuad Boran, Thai Yoga Therapy, Thai Yoga Bodywork, etc?

There is no difference - these are all different names for the same form of bodywork.

3 What does certification mean?

Certification shows the number of hours, the level of training and the name of the place that trained you. Legally speaking, a practitioner needs a massage license in order to practice. There is no national certification board just for Thai Massage.

4 I am a yoga teacher. After the training, can I say that I am a Thai yoga therapist and practice that way?

Many yoga teachers say they are Thai yoga therapists, but since Thai massage really is a massage modality, you need a massage license in order to legally practice all aspects of Thai massage. If, however, you only perform the Thai stretches and delete the rest of the Thai massage techniques, such as the acupressure and reflexology, then the Thai yoga stretches will be fine for you to do as a yoga teacher.

Thai Massage
Sacred Bodywork

PO Box 231532
New York, NY 10020
ananda@thaimassage-sacredbodywork.com

TIME
It's a Stretch!

Thai massage is getting more patients off the table

August 30, 2004 TIME article featuring Ananda doing Thai massage



Contact Information

27 Unquowa Road
Fairfield, CT 06824
Phone: 203-254-YOGA (9642)
Email: info@yoga4everybody.net

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Thai Yoga Therapy is now Available at Y4E! Purchase
Call the studio to book your appointment.

~Welcome

One Month of unlimited yoga for \$30 (new yoga students only)

Like

2A

\$108 00/month - cancellation must be given in writing 30 days prior to next billing cycle

Class Cards and Unlimited Classes include all Level 1, Level 2, Level 1 & 2, Vinyasa Flow, Power, Viniyoga, Intro to yoga and Gentle

Gift Certificates are also available for holidays, special occasions, and celebrations

***Students (full time high school and full time undergrad college) are half price for classes!**

(* does not apply for special classes, offers or workshops)

Separate Classes and Fees

see Workshops page

Check the _____ page before coming to a workshop for any cancellations or changes.

Thai Yoga 90 minutes for \$150

Practitioners are: Jeanine Oburchay, Patrick Casey, Evelyne Serais, Robert Ortner & Greg Barringer

Private sessions are available, either at Yoga for Everybody or in the privacy of your home
Sessions range from \$100-150

* Gift certificates are also available for special occasions and celebrations

* Consider having a yoga party at your home or at Yoga for Everybody

POLICIES

SALES:

Please note that all sales are final; there are no refunds for classes, workshops or special events. Exceptions will be considered for

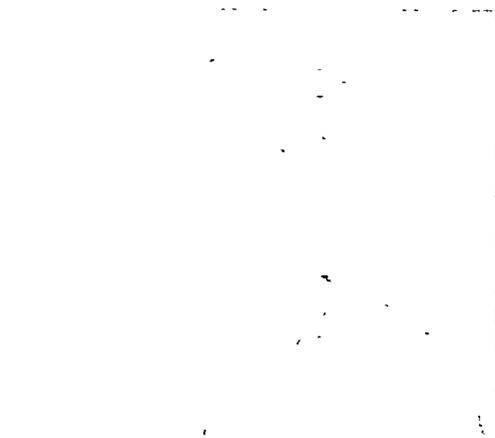


special situations such as medical emergencies. In this situation a 15% processing fee will still be retained.

Please call within 2 weeks of your last class to discuss the situation (good for a credit only).

Once your class session expiration date has arrived, those classes are no longer valid. Class

2B



Greg Barringer, RYT is a certified yoga teacher with advanced studies in the lineage of Swami Shri Kripalvanandji. Recently he has begun studying and practicing Thai Yoga Bodywork. His practice and teaching focuses on the exploration of energy to remove the blocks to becoming our true self.



Mary Green, RYT is a certified Kundalini yoga and meditation teacher, trained by Gurmukh Kaur Khalsa in Rishikesh, India. Mary discovered Kundalini over a decade ago, blissing out to Gurmukh's prenatal videos. She believes in this yoga's transformative power—you can see the world through new eyes from your very first experience. Her goal is to help people of all ages and abilities to open hearts, strengthen bodies and minds, and experience the joy of reaching for the highest self. She is also an investment professional, writer, corporate stress management advocate and a mother to three boys. Reach her at marygreenyoga@gmail.com

Jeanine Oburchay is an ERYT-200/RYT-500 hatha yoga instructor certified through Yoga Alliance. Jeanine's classes combine a playful flow with detailed alignment cues. In addition to teaching yoga, Jeanine is a Reiki Master and a practitioner of Assisted Yoga. Jeanine also coaches springboard diving at two local high schools, a country club, and a USA Diving age group team. You can find out more about Jeanine at www.jeanineoburchay.com.



Robert Ortner, E-RYT-500 Robert's approach to the art of yoga begins with the phrase "We are our own best teachers". One does not just do yoga, one becomes yoga: it is a lifelong journey that anyone can make.

Robert is a Certified Yoga Teacher at both the 200 & 500 hour levels with Don and Amba Stapleton from the Nosara Institute, Yoga therapy training with Nischala Joy Devi, Integrative Yoga Therapist training with Joseph Le Page, Thai Yoga Bodywork certification with Jonas Westring.

Robert has worked with and coached many individuals with a wide range of health issues which, in turn, has led to a pursuit of different yoga therapies and a strong belief in stress relief, breath work, meditation, and energy healing. Learn more about Robert visit www.xl-12.com

2D

~The Teachers~

All of our teachers are certified, and most of them are registered with the Yoga Alliance (RYT), a national organization that provides support to and maintains minimum standards for the education of yoga teachers. In order to qualify to be registered with the Yoga Alliance, a teacher must have a minimum of 200 hours of study, including teaching, special modifications in yoga postures for special needs, anatomy, philosophy and history of yoga.



Evelyne Serais, E-RYT (owner of Y4E) is a certified Kripalu yoga teacher, with 500 hour Certified advanced teacher training from the Amrit yoga institute where she also studied the "forgotten art" of Yoga Nidra. She completed her Kundalini teacher training in 2010 with Gurmukh Kaur Khalsa. She is also a certified Traditional Thai Yoga body worker, practicing since 2004 and continuing that exploration by studying that healing art with diverse teachers from around the world.



Marleen Salko, RYT-500 has studied and taught in the health and fitness field for over 22 years. She is certified in Advanced Kripalu Yoga from the Kripalu Center for Yoga and Health.

Marleen was the founder and owner of Marleen's Yoga Center in Southport and Westport, which merged with Yoga for Everybody in May 2005.

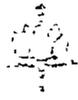




Thai Yoga Therapy Workshop
Saturday, June 18
2:30-5:00pm
with Jeanine, Evelyne, Robert, Greg & Patrick
\$40 if paid by 6/11, \$50 thereafter
[BUY NOW](#)

Thai Yoga Therapy is a combination of massage techniques, therapeutic manipulations like yoga stretches, energy work, acupressure and joint mobilization all coming together to create an energy balancing and opening experience. It is sometimes called "Lazy Yoga" because the receiver gets the same benefits as yoga without doing anything. Thai Yoga Therapy, also referred to as Thai Bodywork, is done on the floor on a thick mat, dressed in yoga clothes and preferably on an empty stomach.

2F



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yoga therapy

60 min \$100, 90 min \$150



assisted hatha yoga

90 min \$175, 120 min \$225

Yoga comprises a wide range of mind/body practices, from postural and breathing exercises to deep relaxation and meditation. Yoga therapy tailors these to the health needs of the individual. It helps to promote all-around positive health, as well as assisting particular medical conditions. This therapy is particularly appropriate for many chronic conditions that persist despite conventional medical treatment.

Performed on a floor mat, wearing loose, comfortable clothes. It incorporates t'ai chi moves, rhythmic motion, gentle stretching and the conscious use of breath. During a session, the practitioner pays careful attention to the recipient's level of flexibility and breath as they gently move the individual into different poses. Each pose is designed to open up the body and allow energy to flow freely along the sen lines. This "opening" increases joint mobility and flexibility, improves circulation, tonifies organs, and relieves muscular and emotional tension.

WESTPORT

1200 Post Road East
Westport, CT 06880
behind Crate & Barrel

Phone 203 532 0660 (*ext 1 for Greenwich, ext 2 is for Westport*)
Fax 203 557 4422 (*Westport*) 203-532-0661 (*Greenwich*)

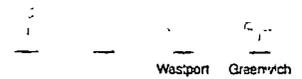
GREENWICH

328 Pemberwick Road
Greenwich, CT 06831
at the Mill

GREENWICH WATERCLUB

49 River Road
Cos Cob, CT 06807
at the Greenwich Water Club

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gina norman

Gina Norman is the owner of Kala Yoga in Greenwich and Westport CT with her husband Stan. She holds teacher training certificates from Bayoga (currently YogaWorks) and Om Yoga Center. Gina is the Director of Teacher Training Programs at Kala Yoga and has been featured in Fitness Parent, Organic Spa, Yoga Journal, Woman's Entrepreneurs, Mothering and Hampton's Magazines. Her fascination with mind-body work and its essential connection to overall health and happiness led her to study Thai Yoga in Thailand, Vipassana meditation in India and Buddhist studies in the Shambhala tradition along with Cranial Sacral Therapy through the Upledger Institute. Her vision as director of Kala Yoga was to develop a wide variety of programming to support not only practitioners through yoga but to build a community where people from all walks of life can come for educational trainings, community and nourishment of their body and mind.



alyssa crouse

Alyssa is a Licensed Massage Therapist and Certified Aromatherapist. Her unique East-meets-West massage combines Swedish, myofascial, and athletic massage, with acupuncture, chakra balancing, polarity therapy and aromatherapy. Her sessions are focused on the therapeutic applications of massage as determined by each individual's needs. An avid yoga practitioner for 11 years, Alyssa is particularly attuned to the proper alignment of muscles and joints in the body for optimal health. Alyssa is passionate about education and is currently a teacher's assistant at the Connecticut Center for Massage Therapy, where she herself was trained.



elizabeth cisci

Elizabeth completed her first 200 and 300 HR teacher trainings in 2006 and 2007. She has continued her study including Thai Yoga, Restorative and Yin Yoga, Therapeutic Yoga. Elizabeth's teaching is informed by her extensive education, her love of philosophy, and her understanding of the mind-body connection. Elizabeth began practicing yoga as a child after suffering a gymnastics injury. During her early years as a teacher, she found a passion for anatomy and transformation which has led her to attain a Prenatal Certification and further study anatomy. Her fascination and connection with the human form is present in her classes, as well as her light-hearted approach. Elizabeth encourages beginners as well as advanced students to safely and joyfully approach their edge each and every time they come to their mat.



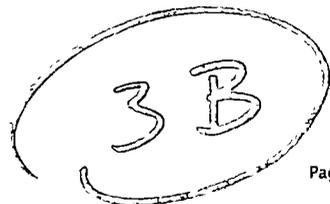
joy carbino

Joy Carbino is a Licensed Massage Therapist, Certified Holistic Health Coach, and Reiki Master/Teacher. Her accreditations include being a member of the American Massage Therapy Association, as well as certification through the National Certification Board for Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork, and a graduate of the Institute for Integrated Nutrition based in Manhattan. Joy is committed to bringing you better health and lifestyle solutions through guidance in the timeless principles of holistic health and wellness care.



kathrine abelson

Kathrine is a licensed massage therapist who graduated from the Finger Lakes School of Massage in Mount Kisco, NY where she received certification in Massage Therapy and Hydrotherapy. She practices an integrated style of massage incorporating different techniques into one session such as Swedish, myofascial release therapy, neuromuscular therapy, acupuncture, energy palpation and reflexology, providing a deeply healing and holistic experience.



Blackbird Yoga

Blackbird Yoga is a yoga studio located in Georgetown, CT offering classes for beginners, intermediate and advanced yogis.

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- Workshops
- Restore & Relax
- Acupuncture
 - Suzanne Gaynor
 - Training and Licensing
 - Resources
 - Testimonials
- Personal Yoga
- Teachers
- Contact

Restore and Relax

Classic Massage \$100 : 60 min. | \$120 : 75 min. | \$130 : 90 min.

Reflexology – a therapy in which the feet alone are worked causing deep relaxation; stimulated points indirectly affect organs and tissues through energetic pathways; clears congestion, reduces anxiety and begins the inner healing process.

Deep Tissue - relieves severe tension in muscles and connective tissues.

Swedish Massage - long, flowing strokes promote circulation and relaxation.

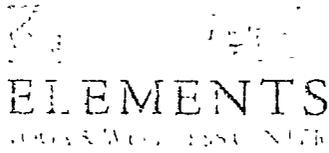
Prenatal Massage – geared toward the pregnant body; relieves stress, improves sleep, regulates hormones, reduces swelling, decreases nerve pain and lessens back pain, helps to prepare the body for birth

Assisted Yoga \$125 : 75 min.

A dynamic combination of myofascial stretching, joint mobilization, energy balancing, assisted yoga asana and meditation.

Acupuncture \$85 per session

The best-known of the Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) treatments, acupuncture involves the insertion of sterile, single-use needles into the skin at specific points on the body based on a Chinese medicine diagnosis. These needles activate and move the body's vital life force energy, or qi (pronounced "chee"), to



Samantha

E

Samantha ..

Heather

E

Maria

E

Jeanine ~ Thai Yoga Bodywork

E



Jeanine began training in Thai Yoga Bodywork in 2006, and since then has studied at the Lotus Palm School of Thai Yoga Bodywork where she obtained her certification. She continues to study regularly with teachers from the Lotus Palm School. Jeanine is also an Anusara Inspired yoga teacher, and loves how the art of Thai Yoga Bodywork dovetails with her personal yoga practice. She also loves how regular Thai Bodywork can enhance anyone's yoga practice, or even bring suppleness to the muscles for people who haven't yet tried yoga.

Jeanine provides an experience for each client that brings harmony and balance back into the body by eliminating constitutional imbalances caused by stress, diet or environmental issues, and by directing energies within the body so that the life force can flow more freely. Her practice also feeds the spirit of each client, as she infuses every part of the treatment with the intention of metta, or loving kindness. Just getting your body moving, stretching, and massaged can help mobility, focus, and general well-being — even if you've never practiced yoga or done any stretching before.

Rita ~ Massage and Thai Yoga Bodywork

E

Rita is a graduate of the Connecticut Center for Massage Therapy, a

4A

GIBBS HB 6243

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Bill Gibbs, I have been a CT licensed massage therapist (Lic. #001444) since 1996 and a Thai massage practitioner since 2007.

Last year the Legislature passed HB 5455 requiring, among other things, that anyone practicing or advertising Shiatsu, acupressure or any of the variation on Thai yoga massage be a state licensed massage therapist. This was generally considered to be a well thought out, well written and effective law.

Now, unfortunately, due to complaints from some yoga teachers in Fairfield the laws original sponsor, Auden Grogins, has introduced HB6243, which would remove the name "Thai Yoga" from the list of modalities requiring a massage license. Thai Yoga is no different than Thai massage. It involves the "mobilization of the soft tissue which may include skin, fascia, tendons, ligaments, and muscles, for the purpose of establishing and maintaining good physical condition". It doesn't matter what name you put on it, it is by definition massage and just because some people were previously practicing outside the law is no reason to change that law. These people do not have the necessary training in anatomy and physiology, pathology or contraindications for massage. Allowing them to practice is a danger to the public and a slap in the face to those of us who have spent the time and money to properly and legally learn massage and Thai massage.

This bill would also defeat the purpose of the original by providing sex workers and human traffickers with another euphemism to hide behind.
Please vote against HB 6243.

Thank You,
Bill Gibbs, LMT
CT Lic. #001444

Navarro HB 6243

I am unable to attend Friday's public hearing on HB6243, but would like to submit this testimony.

The historically loose definition of massage therapy has enabled the operation of sexually-oriented businesses under the guise of massage. It directly contributes to and perpetuates misunderstandings in the general public about massage therapy and the legitimacy of our field. We made forward progress with passage of HB5455 in October 2012 that closed loopholes being used by unscrupulous others. We cannot stand down now!

Licensed massage therapists undertake 500 or more hours of study, and are subject to continuing education requirements to maintain professional certification. **Anyone who is manipulating muscle, fascia, other soft tissue, relieving pain, promoting relaxation, and improving range of motion in a passive manner with a client IS A MASSAGE THERAPIST, and must be held to the same high standards of practitioners under other names (e.g., Ashiatsu, etc.).**

On my first visit for Thai Yoga, within minutes of the start of the session, all I could think is, THIS IS A MASSAGE! This is what I do at sporting events with athletes. Some of the work is what I routinely do with clients who I see for targeted-muscle work. The only difference was the absence of a table on which a therapist typically works. But certainly most of what is done during Thai Yoga, on a mat, translates easily to table work.

The legislature has an important duty to protect the credibility of massage therapy and licensed massage therapists by keeping loopholes closed. Removing 'Thai Yoga' from the legal definition reopens a loophole and excuses certain massage therapy specialists to practice with much less education than others. Furthermore, holding all body-workers to the same standards of education and licensing can only serve to improve the credibility of the massage therapy field.

Please, please, please - do not take a step backward. Kill HB6243.

Diannie Navarro, LMT
CT #004659

It isn't our abilities
that show who we truly are,
it is our choices.

Latraverse HB 6243

Hello,

I am writing to express my extreme dissatisfaction with the effort to remove "Thai Yoga" from the massage therapy statutes. I am a Massage Therapist of 15 years, trained in Newington, CT and I worked administratively at the Connecticut Center for Massage Therapy for 5 years post graduation. Presently, I own my business in Marlborough, CT and make my living solely doing Massage Therapy.

In my opinion, 'Thai Yoga' is a term that was created to elude massage therapy laws - it was created so people would think of yoga instead of massage. In fact Thai Massage should be viewed as a graduate course to a 500 hr massage therapy training. There are over 100 (this is a generic and very low estimate) BASIC moves to Thai Massage.

I'm tired of other professions latching on to the hard earned reputation that Therapeutic Massage has gained over decades from hard work and dedication from my predecessors. We requested and pay for licensure, liability insurance, CEUs, business taxes, etc. There would be no regulation on yoga instructors (or prostitutes!) once this term is removed - and it now gives them the right to piggyback on our reputation.

The main complaint of the people trying to remove this term from the statute is that they are not doing massage. Thai Yoga, Thai Massage, Assisted Yoga, etc., is actively moving another person's body. This is unlike Yoga, where you are not touching another person - you are guiding and demonstrating movement. This is not a yoga therapy or personal training. Lets call it what it is- it's a form of bodywork. To protect the public and our profession - they should be licensed as massage therapists.

We pay a pricey license fee. We expect some title protection.

Sincerely,

Tina Latraverse
Bodymind Wellness Therapeutic Massage
8 Independence Drive, Suite #2
Marlborough, CT 06447

HB 6243

Thai Yoga" is a traditional style of Thai massage and it should remain in the massage general statutes

Thank you,

Alexia Krionidou

HB 6243

As a Thai yoga practitioner I believe that Thai yoga practitioners should be licensed massage therapist and disagree with the The new bill, HB6243 which was raised by the originator of HB5455, in response to complaints from her constituents who are currently calling themselves Thai Yoga Practitioners. House Bill 6243 provides a "technical change" to the statutes, removing the term, "Thai Yoga" from the law.

Thai Yoga should indeed be included and not removed from the present statutes.

Thank you,

Karen Rose Hersher

Licensed massage therapist Ct/NY

Karen Rose (Kai) Hersher

Nutrition Counselor

Nourishing Habits LLC

A Wellness Company

Get healthy. Stay healthy.

<http://www.nourishinghabits.com>

Dear Committee Members,

Please consider this email as my testimony in regards to HB6243 being considered for removing Thai Yoga from being part of massage therapy licensing.

I am a massage therapist and have taken a class on Thai Yoga so I am familiar with the techniques used in the session. Not only is there muscular manipulation done to the client but the person doing these techniques needs to have a strong working knowledge of the human body along with knowledge in any contraindications using these techniques on a client so no permanent harm is done to their body.

I do not use these techniques in my office due to my client base being mostly injury recovery, pre and post surgical as well as athletes. The Thai Yoga techniques are, for the most part, contraindicated for most of my clients due to the nature of how they can affect my client's body.

A few of my clients have already experienced injuries that occurred during yoga classes in my area that was caused by more than one yoga instructor stretching them further than their body could go. If Thai Yoga is allowed, there will be more injuries since the yoga instructors do not have the needed training to know when they are over stretching their student. I even had one client end up in physical therapy due to being overstretched. This happened in a regular yoga class. I cannot imagine what injuries are going to occur if yoga instructors that do not have the proper training needed of the human body are allowed to manipulate the student's body as is done in a Thai Yoga session.

I would like to urge all of you to keep Thai Yoga as part of massage therapy where licensing is required since the techniques used in a session are the same as techniques used in massage therapy. If there is muscle manipulation applied then it should follow that the person using the technique be a licensed massage therapist since they need to know what is appropriate for the person so no injury could occur. At the very least please view the videos available on You Tube to see for yourselves what occurs during a session and see if you would want somebody without proper training and knowledge using these techniques on yourself.

Even though the person remains clothed during the session does not mean that harm could not happen if done by someone with very little knowledge of the human body. When I was in class learning these techniques, I was not able to receive some of the Thai Yoga techniques due to an injury I had from a car accident. If the yoga instructor doesn't have the proper training I would have either been left in excruciating pain or paralyzed since they wouldn't have the knowledge that the techniques used in the session were contraindicated for my situation.

Again, please leave Thai Yoga as a part of massage therapy licensing and under the supervision of the Board of Health Department in the State of CT.

Respectfully,

Barbara P. Gaudio, LMT
Shunyata Healing Center, LLC
250 Mt Parnassus Rd.
East Haddam, CT 06423
860-526-1111
www.HealAtShunyata.com
CT LIC# 0003056

Concerning HB 6243

13 March 2013

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Nicole Arel and I have been a Licensed Massage Therapist (004433) in CT since February 2006. I see clients at an office in Manchester and one in West Hartford as well. My practice is exclusively Traditional Thai Massage (also known in the public as 'Thai Massage', 'Thai Yoga' or 'Thai Bodywork'). In addition, I teach both Massage Therapy 1 and Acupressure at the Connecticut Center for Massage Therapy (Newington and Groton campuses), where I have been on faculty as an assistant, and later instructor, since 2003. I am also an active member of the Connecticut chapter of the American Massage Therapy Association. I completed a 200-Hour Yoga Teacher Training (YTT) and teach two weekly classes at a studio in Manchester, maintaining my RYT through the Yoga Alliance.

I do not agree with, nor support, the recently introduced HB 6243.

When HB 5455 was presented in 2012, I was in full support and came to testify in support of ensuring that proprietors of illicit acts and illegal massage were held accountable, as they were, in fact, NOT offering massage at all. There was language to specify a variety of Eastern Massage modalities.

In the time since the HB 5455 was passed, there has come to light that a number of Yoga Instructors throughout the State have training in 'Thai Yoga' and had been practicing this modality on clients. There were some formal complaints registered and the Department of Public Health had pursued these complaints for Yoga Instructors, instructing them to no longer offer Thai Yoga, as this is a massage modality.

They contacted their State Representatives and brought a complaint that HB 5455 was actually hurting their businesses and had interfered with their livelihood. I absolutely understand their position and feel that they had every right to contact their legislators and ask for some help. Unfortunately, what they were doing initially was illegal. They were practicing massage without a license.

At a meeting with Rep. Grogins on Friday, 1 March 2013, I was clarified in my understanding of Rep. Grogins original intent of HB 5455, which was referred to that day as 'The Sex Bill'. I was deeply disappointed. Many LMT's were in support of this Bill originally and wanted to ensure that all forms of bodywork/massage were noted so as to protect the public and ensure that proper training and licensing was sought and secured by anyone manipulating the soft tissues of the body.

As both an LMT and Yoga Instructor, I can see and speak to both sides of the issue, but was not allowed an opportunity to voice my opinion or thoughts. I was very disappointed in the inability to allow for proper and respectful discourse on this subject. 'We' added some language about requiring insurance coverage for Yoga Instructors performing 'Thai Yoga'

Concerning HB 6243

but upon further reflection, that is not appropriate. This would allow a writing into law for non-licensed persons to perform massage. This is unacceptable.

I researched the claim that there needed to be some depth and investigation to obtain insurance coverage. My recall on securing my yoga and massage insurance coverages was that I merely sent in a letter and check; shortly thereafter, I was covered.

I contacted the Yoga Alliance, through whom I have my insurance, as do many Instructors. I specifically asked about 'thai yoga' coverage. I clarified a number of times to ensure proper understanding. I was told that: "'thai yoga' is covered under your yoga insurance so long as the massage portion of your business is 49% or less of your revenue."

I asked what additional information, certifications or paperwork I needed to complete to secure this coverage. I was informed that there is none needed. Upon examining their website, there are a variety of yoga modalities identified as covered: ashtanga, anusara, bikram, hatha, kripalu. Aco-yoga and arial yoga are *not* covered by the general policy. With thai not being identified, I asked how a therapist would know that they had this coverage. Most call and ask and are told the same that I was.

I asked specifically: "So, if i let my massage license lapse and continue to see Thai clients, I am COVERED by my yoga insurance? And I do not need to do anything further?" The representative was clear in her response: "Well, no. ***But if you take more than half your business as thai yoga, that is massage and invalidates your coverage. We do not cover massage.***" (*italics mine*)

Massage, as defined by the State of Connecticut is:

CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES
Chapter 384a
Massage Therapists

Sec. 20-206a. Definitions.

...

(d) "Massage therapy" means the ***systematic and scientific manipulation and treatment of the soft tissues of the body, by use of pressure, friction, stroking, percussion, kneading, vibration by manual or mechanical means, range of motion and nonspecific stretching.*** Massage therapy may include the use of oil, ice, hot and cold packs, tub, shower, steam, dry heat, or cabinet baths, for the purpose of, but not limited to, maintaining good health and establishing and maintaining good physical and mental condition. Massage therapy does not encompass diagnosis, the prescribing of drugs or medicines, spinal or other joint manipulations, nor any service or procedure for which a license to practice medicine, chiropractic, natureopathy, physical therapy, or podiatry is required by law.

The bold and italics are mine to highlight the pertinent sections of the Massage Statutes.

Concerning HB 6243

Thai Yoga is a term that was created by Westerners in the 1990's, as Thai Massage was making inroads to the USA and Europe, as a marketing and sales tool. During the '90's, most Westerners were familiar with 'Yoga' and what that looks like. In describing Thai Massage, most therapists will suggest that the work is a 'moving meditation' or a 'lazy man's yoga'. Therefore, 'thai yoga' became a catchphrase that therapists use to continue to describe and sell their work to potential clients. There IS an actual version of yoga that is practiced in Thailand; called 'Reusi Dat Ton' (RDT) these are the Hermit's Exercises and most closely translate to what we would identify as yoga. This is not what is being disputed.

Lotus Palm is a very well-known and respected Thai Bodywork school based in Montreal, Canada and founded in 1995 by one of the respected leaders in the 'Thai Community' of bodyworkers, Kam Thye Chow. The popularity of the work has spread their training to centers such as Kripalu and Omega on the East Coast, where numerous yoga, pilates, personal trainers, massage therapists and other interested parties may learn and experience this wonderful work. Many other trainers, especially based on the West Coast, refer to their training as 'Thai yoga massage.' My concern is that on Lotus Palm's website, they state, on a PDF file to download as you consider applying:

Practicing in Canada, USA and elsewhere

...

Course credits, licensing, associations, and insurance

Since every province, state and country sets its own standards for massage, yoga and naturopathic work, we can provide some guidelines and resources that you can use to acquire additional information.

...

Practicing Legally: Knowing your Obligations

Legal licensing requirements vary according to location; it is the practitioner's responsibility to be informed of, and to fulfill local legal requirements governing a given region. In Canada & the United States, massage is sometimes governed by state or provincial law, and then further under municipal regulation. In some cases Thai Massage can also fall under the category of naturopathic work as well as assisted yoga. Thai yoga massage primary focus is the Sen lines and assisted yoga.

To practice legally, we know in some cases we can rename it by calling it Thai yoga bodywork, Thai assisted yoga, Thai yoga healing etc... in our advertising and description.

I find this very disturbing that there is a 'way around' licensing identified for participants. Many practitioners call the work: Thai massage, Thai bodywork, Thai Yoga, Thai Yoga Massage, Nuad Bo Rarn or Traditional Thai Massage. As a public health concern for safety, I believe that we need to call 'massage' massage and identify bodywork where there is a passive recipient as 'massage'.

The main difference between what is being called 'thai yoga' and any other version of yoga is that the client is a PASSIVE recipient; this would indicate the the therapist is applying the work and moving the soft tissues. As a yoga instructor, there is a very intense debate currently over whether instructors should actually touch students. There have been very gentle and conscientious ways to assist a student deepen their practice. There are also assists that have resulted in lawsuits and injury. So even within the yoga community

Concerning HB 6243

there is debate over how much actual hands-on contact an instructor should have with a student.

This highlights another difference: yoga STUDENTS use an instructor (either in class or in private) to assist, lead, deepen, educate and enhance a PRACTICE. 'Thai Yoga' recipients are RECEIVERS (AKA: clients, patients) who EMPLOY a therapist to move their body and deepen their relaxation and increase the movements of the body, relax the skeletal muscles, decrease the effects of stress and help to create a better engagement of the mind-body connection.

My final concern is regarding depth/pressure. At the meeting of March 1st, there was talk of how deep a therapist works. This is ALWAYS dependent upon the health and desire of the client. The work can be very light (under a pound of pressure) and can go to the depth of the practitioner's full bodyweight. Each therapist does find their own 'style' and pace and preferred depth, but I do not believe that we are able to legislate based on the DEPTH of work performed. Traditionally, a modality such as lymph drainage is extremely light and this is massage; Structural Integration is extremely deep and this, too, falls under massage.

I call for the statutes to remain as they are, unchanged. I believe that trying to play with the semantics of language in order to allow illegal actions to be protected is unethical and against what I have learned and understand as the proper way for a yoga instructor, massage therapist or business professional to conduct themselves.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,

Nicole Arel, LMT #004433
Essential Touch LLC
PO Box 8174
Manchester, CT 06042

cc:
Rep. Sandy Nafis
Rep. Auden Grogins
Rep. Linda Orange
Rep. Jack Hennessy
Rep. Brian Sear
Rep. Anthony Guglielmo
Rep. Jason Rojas
Judy Yost, AMTA Lobbyist
Scott Raymond, AMTA Immediate Past President
Susan Johnson
Patricia Miller
Prasad Srinivasan

Concerning HB 6243

David Alexander
David Arconti
Whit Betts
Michelle Cook
Theresa Conroy
Christopher Davis
Mike Demicco
DebraLee Hovey
Themis Klarides
James Maroney
Jason Perillo
Emmett Riley
Kevin Ryan
Pamela Sawyer
David Scribner
Peter Tercyak
Patricia Widlitz
Melissa Ziobron
David Zoni

HB 6243

Dear Representative Widlitz,

I am a Connecticut State Licensed Massage Therapist since 1994; Lic # 000204 I have certified training in Thai Massage through continuing education courses that are specifically required for practicing (licensed) massage therapists Thai Massage is a one-on-one systematic manipulation done by a practitioner and is also termed Thai Yoga, Thai Yoga Bodywork, Thai Yoga Massage

Please do not allow the term "Thai Yoga" to be removed from the Connecticut Statutes concerning Massage Therapy as this IS a form of massage which should be performed by a Licensee

Dorothy Ruggiero, LMT

SeaStones Natural Therapies, LLC

203 481-7866

To the Public Health Committee in reference of HB6243 I feel this should be pass on the merit that Thai Yoga should not have been included in the HB5455 Public Act 12-64 passed in October 2012. It is my believe that these eastern bodywork techniques such as Thai yoga, Shiatsu, Acupressure and Thai Yoga Bodywork are legitimate forms of therapies on their own and should not be subject to the requirements of the massage association. These forms of bodywork should not be listed in the same text with "sexually oriented businesses" language, that they have been linked with.

Thai Yoga bodywork originated in Thailand 2500 years ago and gets it roots in the yoga tradition of Indian Ayurveda.

I am a Licenced Massage Therapist who practices both reg. massage and Thai bodywork.

Thank You,

Jo Anne Miele LMT

22 East Main Street

Mystic, CT

HB 6243

As a Licensed Massage Therapist in CT for 23 years, I strongly agree that Thai Yoga and others should be included under the Massage Therapy License.

I see too many places in Westport, Norwalk, Fairfield, etc., advertising these modalities and the so called practitioner can't even speak English! So if you can't speak English or understand it, how can you possibly communicate with your client? Especially when the client is trying to tell you to stop because you are hurting them! This is a true story that I just heard from a client 2 weeks ago. The business is in Westport on the Post Rd.

Also Thai Massage, Yoga Thai Massage, Accupresure and any bodywork should be required to have the same education as Massage Therapy. Some of those modalities stretch and move the body of a client, on a mat using the legs of the practitioner to do the work. It's very effective work IF THE PRACTITIONER IS EDUCATED ABOUT THE BODY ESPECIALLY ABOUT THE CONTRAINDICATORS, CONDITIONS, PHYSIOLOGY, ANATOMY, PATHOLOGY, NEUROLOGY AND KINESIOLOGY. If a practitioner doesn't even know how to do a thorough intake of a client, how can they possibly know what they are working on? Would you go to a Medical Doctor or Dentist or Nurse or Physical Therapist if you knew that some of them are exempt from the educational requirement? Well the public DOES NOT KNOW THAT CERTAIN BODYWORKERS IN THIS STATE ARE NOT REQUIRED THE EDUCATION OF A MASSAGE THERAPIST!!! And the fact that places of questionable business in CT use some of these people for sexual exploitation is not only reprehensible, but leaves a very dark impression on that neighborhood and the landlords who rent such places!

It's time for us to wake up and stop making excuses for un-educated bodyworkers or worse.

By keeping the bar high we will raise our standards for the public and the state. By lowering the bar, you tell the public that is ok to have "less than" standards for certain modalities even though they are physically working on your body!

Thank you,
Rosalie Dunn
CT LIC MASSAGE THERAPIST # 560

HB 6243

Good Morning,

I am a licensed massage therapist and I object to Thai Yoga practioners using these words "Thai Yoga" synonymous with the word Thai Massage.

Massage therapists are licensed and undergo rigourous training in the field, more than 500 hours are required and a board exqam are required for us to touch a client. Thai yoga practioners can practice on people with as little as 20 hours.

This is a disservice to massage therapists who comply with the law and also to clients who are unaware of the lack of anatomy knowledge a yoga practioner has in comparison to a massage therapist.

Thai Yoga and Thai Massage are not interchangeable. Please support legitimate massage and do not allow the removal of Thai yoga from the statute , bill HB5455.

Thank you

Cheri Garet, LMT

License # 005992

HB 6243

I have been a CT licensed, full-time massage therapist in private practice for nine years. As part of my CEU requirements I have acquired 38 hours of training in Thai Massage. I have also practiced Yoga for 20 years. By whatever name, the practice of placing a passive client in a yoga pose and assisting in deepening the pose, falls under the purview of therapy, not Yoga.

A teacher of Yoga does not have sufficient training and understanding of anatomy and physiology to perform these techniques without risk of injury to the client. Thai Massage must be performed with extreme sensitivity to be applied safely. The risk of damaging joints, ligaments, tendons and muscles is high if training is insufficient.

Thai Yoga is a form of massage therapy, NOT a form of Yoga. I strongly oppose HB6243, which would exclude Thai Yoga from defined massage therapy practices.

Respectfully,

Lynn Castelli, LMT

Hygeia Therapeutic Massage

www.hygeiatherapeutic.com

860-429-2978/860-208-0377

HB 6243

As a licensed massage therapist AND a recipient of Thai Yoga I am writing to express my concern for the intent behind HB6243 that will remove "Thai Yoga" from the constraints of professional body workers. Thai yoga is performed by a practitioner "on" a client who is lying on a mat and is physically manipulated by the practitioner. This is very much a hands on modality and should be under the same guidelines and restrictions as any other hands on technique.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Carol Sullivan 14 Spring Glen Drive, Granby, CT

Make this a beautiful day!

CHANDRA HB 6243

I am a Licensed Massage Therapist and a Certified yoga instructor in the state of CT. I also have taken multiple Thai Yoga massage trainings and have performed multiple Thai Yoga Massage sessions on clients and students since my Licensure date. As a professional who has actively utilizes all of these seemingly crossover modalities, I can safely say they should be included and listed under the massage therapy statutes.

Make no mistake, Thai Massage, Thai Yoga, and Thai Yoga Massage are all the same thing. That is, manual manipulation of a passive recipient by a skilled and adequately schooled practitioner who performs systematic and scientific manipulation and treatment of the soft tissues of the body, by use of pressure, friction, stroking, percussion, kneading, vibration, range of motion and nonspecific stretching . It is performed one on one, just like any other style of massage therapy (western or eastern styles)

I have had a massage therapy practice for close to 8 years (and been a Thai Massage Practitioner for just as long) and have been teaching yoga since 2002 and feel strongly that ANYONE saying that they practice Thai Massage, Thai Yoga, and Thai Yoga Massage should be held accountable to the same standards of any manual therapist. Even if you call it Thai Yoga, it is still manual therapy FIRST.

Having been through the rigors of both an accredited massage therapy course at the CT Center for Massage Therapy (2005 graduate) and a certified yoga teacher training (2002 graduate) plus multiple continuing educational courses to uphold my license and certification, it is unsafe and unethical for those without a CT state massage therapy license to perform Thai Massage, Thai Yoga, or Thai Yoga Massage on the CT public.

Please DO NOT pass HB6243.

Thank you

Sincerely,

Lillee Chandra

--

Lillee Chandra, LMT, E-RYT
East West Healing Arts Center
410 State Street, Suite 12
North Haven, CT 06473

www.ChandraBodyworks.com

HB6243 bill. Thai Yoga is massage.

To whom it may concern,

My name is Katalin Walinski, Licensed Massage Therapist (CTLic.#5427) and Thai Yoga Bodywork practitioner.

In my opinion, Thai Yoga is massage and HB6243 is not a good bill for the protection of the field of Massage Therapy, and for public safety!

Sincerely,
Katalin Walinski

BARRINGER HB 6243

Dear Members of the Public Health Committee,

My name is Greg Barringer. I am a resident of Fairfield, Connecticut. I am testifying in support of HB 6243, an act making a technical change to the statute concerning advertising by massage therapist; removing the language "Thai Yoga" from section 20-206g of the general statutes.

I am a full-time, certified, insured yoga instructor; making my living by teaching yoga at several studios and the YMCA here in Fairfield County. I also guide students in small group settings or one-on-one. I have been practicing yoga for two decades and have received over 1000 hours of training in various disciplines related to the instruction and guidance of yoga experiences, including over 100 hours of training in Thai yoga.

All of my work ultimately involves calming the body and the mind so the true nature of a student can be experienced and remembered. All yoga essentially leads towards creating harmony between our mind, body and spirit. I utilize Thai yoga techniques as part of my practice to release blocks within body, thus opening energy channels, enhancing vitality and promoting overall wellness and relaxation.

I do not feel that my work interferes or conflicts with massage therapy in any way. If anything it enhances it. I receive massage regularly, and I encourage my students to do likewise. Our works are a distinct compliment to each other. I hope you will see this likewise.

Thank you so much for your consideration.
Sincerely,

Greg Barringer

HALL HB 6243

My name is Michelle Hall , I have been a CT licensed massage therapist (Lic. #004014). I live in Bridgeport, Connecticut. My most recent massage office was located in Milford, but I did have an office in Bridgeport with a Chiropractor from 2009-20011. I am a 2004 graduate of a year and a half Massage Therapy program from Connecticut Center of Massage. In 2006, i spent a month at the Kripalu Yoga Center in Massachusetts to obtain my 200hr yoga certification. Having such a connection with both the love of teaching yoga and practicing massage i feel that i am able to give you a very relevant opinion on Thai Massage and why it needs to stay under licensing for therapist.

Last year the Legislature passed HB 5455 requiring, among other things, that anyone practicing or advertising Shiatsu, acupressure or any of the variation on Thai yoga massage be a state licensed massage therapist. This was generally considered to be a well thought out, well written and effective law.

I remember when taking my first Thai Massage/Yoga course offered by the Lotus Palm School in 2005. It was a wonderful program with a mix of massage therapists and yoga teachers in the week long course. The teachers actually offered suggestions of how to circumvent any laws in the various states which had listed the modality strictly under a massage license. They themselves called Thai Massage and Thai Yoga the same thing. The best way for someone who wasn't a massage therapist to offer was to label it as Thai Yoga instead. Honestly, this did not set well with me. It wasn't until obtaining my yoga certification i realized exactly *why* it did not feel right; besides being told to manufacture a way to side step the laws.

While taking my 200 hr yoga teacher training, We did have one or two lectures on anatomy. Coming from a massage therapist background, it was the most basic of anatomy. So many people who did not have a massage or an anatomy background struggled and needed to be paired up with someone who had a stronger background in it. This is what struck me as one of the reasons why someone who is only a yoga teacher should not be hands on manipulating the soft tissue working with people under the umbrella of Thai Yoga/Massage. Neither that first Thai Yoga workshop I took nor the Yoga Teacher Training anatomy section did they ever venture into pathology which should have careful consideration.

Removing the name Thai Yoga from the list of massage modalities under licensing, also opens doors for anyone to practice. Anyone with out any formal training or anatomy training. Anyone including sex workers. It has taken a long time for massage therapist to shake off the negative images due to illegal massage parlors. Finally we are seen as legit bodyworkers assisting in prevention of injury and helping those who need it for aches and pains.

Now, unfortunately, due to complaints from some yoga teachers in Fairfield the laws original sponsor, Auden Grogins, has introduced HB6243, which would remove the name "Thai Yoga" from the list of modalities requiring a massage license. Thai Yoga is no different than Thai massage. It involves the

"mobilization of the soft tissue which may include skin, fascia, tendons, ligaments, and muscles, for the purpose of establishing and maintaining good physical condition".

It is, by definition, massage and just because some people were previously practicing outside the law is no reason to change that law. These people do not have the necessary training in anatomy and physiology, pathology or contraindications for massage. Allowing them to practice is a danger to the public and a slap in the face to those of us who have spent the time and money to properly and legally learn massage and Thai massage.

As a life long Bridgeport resident, a Connecticut Licensed Massage Therapist, and a Certified Yoga Teacher, i find that allowing anyone outside of a massage therapist to offer this modality, would open up harm to the public as well as allowing anyone with nefarious illegal intentions to take away from my hard work and legitimate practice. It has been very thrilling to see so many illegal massage parlors shut down in my town. It has not only been illegal but takes away from the legitimacy i have in paying my dues - schooling, taking the national exam, and paying my CT licensing fees.

This bill would also defeat the purpose of the original by providing sex workers and human traffickers with another euphemism to hide behind.

Please vote against HB 6243.

--

Michelle Hall
Licensed Massage Therapist
Certified Kripalu Yoga Teacher

203/257-0327

check out the new blog: yoginiatplay.wordpress.com

Austin, Bob HB 6243

Last year HB5455 added several modalities to Massage Therapy statutes. It is understandable that people using some of these modalities would be upset at additional requirements being imposed, but the main purpose of all the Massage Therapy statutes is to provide safety to the public, both from practitioners who are not adequately trained and from the sex trafficking trade.

Up for consideration now is HB6243 which seeks to remove "Thai yoga" from the statutes. The first problem is that the individuals that operate sexually oriented businesses understand our law VERY well and if the term "Thai Yoga" is removed, we will begin to see such businesses begin to use the loophole that has been opened and use the term "Thai Yoga" in the next few years. The second problem with removing the term "Thai Yoga" is that yoga instructors will become "practitioners" and with as little as 30 hours of Thai Yoga training, plus their 200 hours of Yoga Teacher Training. We need to keep this loophole closed!!

The term "Thai Yoga" is used to describe "Thai massage" like the word "masseur", "masseur", "massagist", or "massage practitioner" is used to describe "massage therapist". They are perceived as interchangeable. Thai Yoga is Thai massage.

The most clear difference between "Thai Yoga" and "Yoga" is passive versus active movement from the participant

- Thai Yoga is done on a mat with the recipient passive and the practitioner performing systematic and scientific manipulation and treatment of the soft tissues of the body, by use of pressure, friction, stroking, percussion, kneading, vibration, range of motion and nonspecific stretching.. It is done one on one, just like any other style of massage therapy (western or eastern styles).
- Yoga, no matter which style, is done actively by the participant or participants with guidance from the instructor over an entire classroom. Yoga requires an instructor, but Thai yoga requires a practitioner. What these instructors are doing is "assisted yoga" and it should be stated as such. It must not be called Thai Yoga.

Thai Yoga IS massage and HB6243 is not a good bill for the protection of the field of Massage Therapy, and for public safety.

RA

Bob Austin, LMT CT license: 002118
Norwalk, CT 06854

<http://www.linkedin.com/profile/view?id=35726362>

<http://www.bowtech.com/WebsiteProj/Pages/Practitioner/PractitionerProfile.aspx?studentid=166>

[11](#)

<http://alumni.binghamton.edu/AJ/2002/summer/profile03.htm>

No dream comes true until you wake up and go to work. - Anonymous



Kindly consider the environment before printing this e-mail message.

Testimony of Gina Norman of Westport in support of

**HB 6243 AN ACT MAKING A TECHNICAL CHANGE TO THE STATUTE
CONCERNING ADVERTISING BY MASSAGE THERAPISTS**

Public Health Committee Public Hearing

Friday, March 15, 2013

Representative Johnson, Senator Gerratana and members of the Public Health Committee, for the record my name is Gina Norman and I am submitting testimony in favor of H.B. No. 6243 AN ACT MAKING A TECHNICAL CHANGE TO THE STATUTE CONCERNING ADVERTISING BY MASSAGE THERAPISTS.

My name is Gina Norman, my husband Stan Woodman and I founded Kaia Yoga in 2006. We currently have two studios in Fairfield county, our studio in Westport is the largest in Connecticut. We employ over 60 yoga teachers, 10 massage therapists, and operate 2 all organic juice bars and cafes. We have committed ourselves entirely to offering our community access to optimum health and wellness for every aspect of their lives

I have been practicing Thai Yoga Therapy for over 15 years, I have studied extensively here in the US and in Thailand. I have never called myself a massage therapist and I do not believe that Thai Yoga is a form of massage therapy. A Thai Yoga session is much more like private yoga than massage. I think that some of the confusion here lies with the use of this word "massage". I understand that Massage Therapists in Connecticut have stringent certification regulations, and I make sure that they are followed to the letter in our wellness program. However, to put Thai Yoga in the same category as western massage is to allow something to be defined and restricted simply because of its association with a word rather than the fact that it resembles the activity.

Thai Yoga is typically done on the floor, both the recipient and the practitioner are fully clothed, and the recipient is manipulated into postures that are similar to yoga, pilates or many other movement based healing modalities Thai Yoga is about stretching, breathing and energy. It is not massage, the description of massage as "muscle manipulation" leaves

plenty of coaches, Pilates teachers, yoga instructors, and personal trainers in a strangely undefined space.

If there is a desire to regulate Massage more effectively then we must carefully define what that means, not create broad definitions that cause other forms of energy work to suffer. There is a need in our community for Thai Yoga, I see it in students in both my Greenwich and Westport locations. They seek out yoga, meditation, and other offerings from our wellness program and cafe, in an attempt to find balance in their busy lives.

Please do not limit their access to something that can really help people to heal, to improve their yoga practice, to build connection to their breath and body in a new way. It does not compete with massage, they can easily co-exist offering people many ways to improve their experience of their lives.

Thank you for your time,

Gina Norman

Re: HB6243 - Oppose

Honorable Chairperson, Representatives, Assistants, Aides, ladies and gentlemen

My name is Rick Haesche. I am a licensed massage therapist (#001013). I make my living and support my family as a sole proprietor practicing and teaching Thai Bodywork.

I am here to voice my opposition to HB6243.

In the 18 years that I have been practicing Thai Yoga, I have taken classes with many different instructors teaching different styles of Thai bodywork, and have done exchanges, or trades with practitioners from all over the world and all over the spectrum of this eastern style of bodywork called Thai Massage, Thai Yoga, Nuad Bo Rarn, among others.

There are many different styles and views to Thai Yoga, but the one thing that is common to just about every session that I have ever experienced is an invisible but palpable field of lovingkindness and goodwill that surrounds the practitioner and receiver during a session. This is what makes the work the magic.

Thai Yoga is powerful energy work where negative thinking and emotion can be transmitted to the receiver as fluidly as Lovingkindness and Compassion. The unique aspect of Thai Yoga is that the practitioner cultivates a meditative state to focus the mind in the present moment, to assure they don't miss responses in the receiver's body, and to keep the mind from slipping into negative or unproductive thoughts while being in close proximity to the receiver.

This spiritual side of Thai Yoga is beautiful and very healing for people at this time. In my heart I believe the world needs more people coming in contact with this kind of work. By its nature, I cannot see how this healing can be bound by law or regulation, or how this energetic aspect of the work could possibly be defined by legislators or committees.

But this is not the problem.

It is the physical aspect of Thai Yoga that we don't agree on.

Thai Yoga is a form of massage. It fits the original Massage Therapy Statutes definition of Massage Therapy. Thai Yoga is similar to other eastern bodywork modalities where the receiver remains clothed and generally no oils or lotions are used.

The receiver is passive and relaxed. The practitioner moves the body into different postures in the supine, prone, sidelying, and seated position. The practitioner uses their thumbs, hands, palms, elbows, knees, and feet to press, stretch, and twist the body with the intent

of clearing and tonifying the Sen lines, which is the energy system of Thai Yoga Massage. This work can be deep, or it can be very light, depending on what the receiver needs. In any case, this mindset of Lovingkindness and Compassion is the foundation of any session.

This is my view of Thai Yoga.

There are many practitioners that hold the view that Thai Yoga is not Massage, and that they can practice without a massage license as long as they call it something else. This is the piece that I have a hard time with.

Since the law was enacted, some Thai Yoga practitioners have been issued Cease and Desist orders from the Department of Public Health. Their complaint to their Legislator has resulted in an apparent willingness to compromise the Massage Therapy Statutes for the benefit of the few people that were practicing illegally in the first place.

Personally I think this is wrong. But this is just my view.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony. I am eager to see how this discussion evolves and I have faith that whatever happens, everything is going to work out as it should.

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TO: Members of the Public Health Committee

FROM: Scott Raymond LMT
American Massage Therapy Association
Connecticut Chapter
100 Market Square, Suite 2
Newington CT 06111

RE: Bill No. 6243 AN ACT MAKING A TECHNICAL CHANGE TO THE STATUTE CONCERNING ADVERTISING BY MASSAGE THERAPISTS.

Good Morning Ladies and Gentleman of the Public Health Committee. My name is Scott Raymond. I am the Immediate Past President and the Government Relations Chair of the Connecticut Chapter of the American Massage Therapy Association, and the owner of Market Square Wellness Center in Newington. I am a licensed massage therapist, a Thai Yoga practitioner, and I have completed a 200 hour yoga teacher training with embodyyoga®.

It is my honor to write this on behalf of over 2000 Licensed Massage Therapists in Connecticut that are members of the American Massage Therapy Association. We CANNOT support Bill No. 6243, an act making a technical change to the statute concerning advertising by massage therapists, the way it is written today.

"Thai Yoga" is another name for Thai Massage. This is NOT a technical change.

With the passing of Public Act 12-64 the words, "Shiatsu, Acupressure, Thai Yoga, Thai massage, and Thai Yoga massage" were added to the massage therapy statutes. The legislative intent was to close the loopholes that were used to operate "sexually oriented businesses" with titles that normally refer to eastern styles of therapeutic massage.

All forms of eastern bodywork should hold the same standard of education as western bodywork currently does to keep the public safe.

Many Thai Yoga practitioners are yoga instructors that have taken some Thai Yoga training to expand and compliment their practice. They believe that "Thai Yoga" is classified as a style of yoga, that it is not an eastern style of massage that should require a license, and they would like to see the term "Thai Yoga" removed from the statutes. The term "Thai Yoga" is used to describe "Thai massage" like the word "masseuse", "masseur," "massagist," or "massage practitioner" is used to describe "massage therapist." They are all interchangeable terms. Thai Yoga is Thai massage.

The clearest difference between "Thai Yoga" and "Yoga" is passive versus active movement from the participant.

- Thai Yoga is done on a mat with the recipient passive and the practitioner performing systematic and scientific manipulation and treatment of the soft tissues of the body, by use of pressure, friction, stroking, percussion, kneading, vibration, range of motion and nonspecific stretching. It is done one on one, just like any other style of massage therapy (western or eastern styles).
- Yoga, no matter which style, is done actively by the participant or participants with guidance from the instructor over an entire classroom or privately. Yoga requires an instructor, but Thai Yoga requires a practitioner. What these instructors are doing is "assisted yoga" and it should be stated as such. It must not be called Thai Yoga. "Thai Yoga" is another name for Thai Massage.

Last month representatives from both sides met with Representative Grogins to get clarity around this request and come to an agreement. After this meeting today, I am looking forward to continuing to work closely with Representative Grogins to be able to keep the term "Thai Yoga" in the statutes, keep the public safe, and keep the massage profession clean.

Respectfully Submitted,

Scott Raymond LMT
CT License number 1882
Government Relations Chair and Immediate Past President
American Massage Therapy Association, CT Chapter

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**CONNECTICUT
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SENATE**

**PROCEEDINGS
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Also, we had another item on the foot of the Calendar, that's already on the foot of the Calendar, Calendar 120, Substitute for Senate Bill Number 803; would move to remove that item from the foot and also to mark it passed, retaining its place on the Calendar.

Then, Madam President, some items to add to our go-list -- rather to our Consent Calendar before calling for a vote on that Consent Calendar. Madam President, beginning on Calendar Page 22, Calendar 511, House Bill 6243; would move to place that item on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

On Calendar Page 23, Calendar 517, House Bill 6453; move to place this item on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Moving to Calendar Page 24, Calendar 525, House Bill 6457; move to place the item on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

And on Calendar Page 29, Calendar 562, House Bill 5387; move to place the item on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, if the Clerk would now proceed to read the items placed on the Consent Calendar today, before calling for a vote on that Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

Beginning on Calendar Page 3, Number 146, Senate Bill Number 959; also on Calendar Page 3, Number 165, Senate Bill 327.

On Calendar Page 8, Number 303, Senate Bill Number 1018.

On Page 22, Calendar Number 511, House Bill 6243.

On Page 23, Calendar Number 517, House Bill 6453.

On Page 24, Calendar Number 525, House Bill 6457; also on Page 24, Calendar Number 526, Senate Bill 1079.

On Page 25, Calendar Number 527, Senate Bill 1131; also on Page 25, Calendar Number 529, Senate Bill 965. Finally, on Page 25, Calendar Number 531, Senate Bill 986.

On Page 29, Calendar Number 562, House Bill 5387.

On Page 35, Calendar Number 39, Senate Bill 597.

On Page 40, Calendar 210, Senate Bill 817.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk, on Page 35, have you also seen Calendar Number 44, Senate Bill 809?

A VOICE:

Yeah.

THE CHAIR:

(Inaudible) wrong. Okay. Okay; I apologize, sir.

Please proceed.

THE CLERK:

On Calendar Page 40, Number 210, Senate Bill 817.

On Page 41, Calendar 254, Senate Bill 1013.

On Calendar Page 42, Number 271, Senate Bill 1072;
also on Page 42, Calendar Number 286, Senate Bill
1113.

On Page 44, Calendar 364, Senate Bill 1014.

On Page 46, Calendar Number 397, Senate Bill 992; also
on Page 46, Calendar 406, Senate Bill 1129. And
finally, on Page 46, Calendar 407, Senate Bill 383.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk, I ask for a roll call vote. The machine
will be open for the Consent Calendar.

THE CLERK:

Immediate roll call vote has been ordered in the
Senate on the Consent Calendar. Immediate roll call
vote has been ordered in the Senate; Senators please
return to the Chamber.

THE CHAIR:

All members have voted: all members voted? The
machine will be closed.

Mr. Clerk, will you please call the tally.

THE CLERK:

On the Consent Calendar.

Total Voting	36
Voting Yea	36
Voting Nay	0
Absent, not voting	0

THE CHAIR:

The Consent Calendar passes.

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, at this point, having concluding the day's business, would certainly yield the floor to any members for purposes of announcements or committee meeting or -- or other points of personal privilege.

THE CHAIR:

Are there any point -- points of personal privilege or announcements? Are there any personal privileges or announcement?

Senator McKinney.

SENATOR McKINNEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, as fate would have it, we came close yesterday to being able to celebrate the birthday of two of our members. Yesterday we celebrated the birthday of Senator Slossberg; today, we get to celebrate the birthday of Senator Len Fasano, so --

THE CHAIR:

All right.

SENATOR McKINNEY: