



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Board of Massage Therapists

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January 24, 2023

Greetings,

The Oregon Board of Massage Therapists supports anti-human trafficking and anti-sex trafficking efforts in general and specifically as it relates to the massage industry and profession. The illicit massage industry is known as one of the largest and most networked sex trafficking markets in the world. The licit massage businesses operate in plain sight, masquerading as legitimate massage professionals while conducting dangerous and illegal massage and sexual services. The Board is dedicated to the reduction and elimination of illicit massage facilities in the State of Oregon and beyond, and supports those persons victimized by the illicit practices.

The Board encourages and supports local governments, law enforcement, prosecutors, non-profit organizations, victim assistance agencies, and other organizations who are diligently working to detect, prevent, and prosecute traffickers and their organizations, and those organizations who support and assist the victims and survivors of the trafficking industry.

The Board recognizes that the OBMT cannot resolve the illicit massage industry and its human trafficking components alone. It is estimated that there are approximately 177 (301 in 2025*) illegal illicit massage business operating in Oregon today. Eliminating these illicit massage businesses will require a cooperative, multi-agency approach that includes State and local governments, law enforcement, prosecutors, community service providers, and the public. It will take education, prevention, and enforcement efforts to resolve this situation and hopefully eliminate these illicit massage businesses from Oregon.

Robert Ruark,

Executive Director
Oregon Board of Massage Therapists