Dear fellow colleagues:

Please allow me this time to address an issue that has generated a great deal of passion and concern on all sides pertaining to “Massage Therapy” in Raritan Township. Having done some research on this issue, and having looked at this matter objectively, I can only conclude that sentiment for regulating “Massage, Bodywork & Somatic Therapy” at a local level has grown stronger. I can respect one’s desire to scrutinize this type of activity a bit more closely for reasons one believes are right and just. Although hearts and best intentions maybe in the right place, credible data would suggest that pertinent facts relevant to this issue were missed regarding additional liability and risk the township could potentially take on as an “Unintended Consequence” of regulating this type of enterprise locally. It’s been said time and again: “Other towns do it without any pushback, so why can’t we?” Could it be because no one has ever filed an action challenging legislation regulating “Bodywork & Somatic Therapy” at a Municipal level before?

N.J.S.A. 45: 11-53 et seq. 45:11-78. “Supersede of Municipal Ordinance Regulation” dictates that any form of registration pertaining to names, phone numbers, addresses and licensee numbers assigned to a “Massage Therapist”, or that of a client for review by a town pursuant to local legislation is not permissible under the state’s “Massage, Bodywork & Somatic Therapy Act.” A “Massage Therapist” is a “Health Care Provider.” They are healers and are classified as such pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45: 11-53 et seq. They are afforded the same protection any doctor’s office is afforded when it comes to privacy rights. We’re playing with fire and could easily become entangled in a situation we may not be able to get out of short of bringing “Significant Cost and Damage to the Township.” No one driving this train to my knowledge has taken time out to do the necessary research to ensure irreparable harm has no chance of visiting our town should regulating these establishments become public policy.

To Committeean O’Brien’s point: A loving father and devoted husband to his son Joe and wife Jean was well taken. I can relate to the untold horror and abuse young women, children and their families are forced to endure as a result of being caught up in the sex trade. Their future relegated to unthinkable acts of rape, bondage and brutal beatings that all too often lead to death. “Kids represent our future and need to be protected.” I get it! I’m also no fool and am able to recognize we don’t live in a perfect world and cannot be all things to all people. Surgically targeting unlawful activity upon reasonable suspicion with probable cause would be a course of action I would be able to support.” Anyone who compromises young women or children for their own personal ill-gotten gain needs to be jailed! On the flip side, “Stigmatizing and Painting” Every “Massage Therapist” with the same brush does not comport with the values I’ve spent a life time living. It runs counter to who we are as a society.
Most, if not all establishments operating in Raritan are above board and legitimate service providers. They draw a market of high end patrons who contribute and remain part of our town. Some Mom and Pop operations run by professional people with the highest level of integrity struggling to keep their heads above water in an ever changing market. Others are part of corporate chains that again, are not about solicitation, but rather “Reputable & Legitimate” “Health Care Providers”, all of which represent part of our tax base. They deserve to be treated with dignity and respect, not stigmatized with innuendo and suspicion. It may be worth noting these “Treatment Centers” are licensed, regulated and inspected by the State pursuant to provisions under N.J.S.A. 45: 11-53 et seq. Law enforcement can enter them at any time if a question of impropriety arises with full license and authority to demand they show their license and inspection certificates allowing them to operate, or else be shut down on the spot.

The logic and reasoning for adopting an ordinance is that the more towns that pass this type of legislation, the safer we’ll all be as residents. A noble and convincing concept that sounds good and feels good. The questions that need to be answered are: What is our goal? What type of benchmarks would be in the mix to measure success and justify allocating resources already stretched to the breaking point? What benefit would we receive when the music stops other than just feeling good about doing something? On what basis do we conclude we have eight Massage Therapists potentially poised to rain down untold havoc in a quiet suburban town where trouble tends to be the exception, not the rule? Would such an ordinance compromise an individual’s right to privacy? Has an ordinance of this type ever been tested in the courts, and if so, what was the outcome? An individual’s right to privacy is serious business. The Fourth Amendment applies here. Our Board of Health has made that very clear.

“Compromising a Client’s Medical File” under the auspices of “Municipal Government” passing an ordinance without a client’s written consent would be questionable at best. Subpoenas would need to be obtained. In the Township’s best interest, it is paramount that a client’s right to privacy be protected. Do we really want to impose the heavy hand of government on small business owners who have demonstrated time and again they are honorable people? People whose hearts and best intentions are in the right place? I believe the best option at this point would be to stand down, take a deep breath and look at the big picture instead of getting egg on our face for adopting this legislation without having done our homework. Let’s all join as one to make this right. Thank you for talking this time to read, hear and absorb the content of my message. I would ask that you research this issue as you converse with the business community to ensure an intelligent and informed decision is made on this highly charged issue.

Yours Respectfully

Louis Carl Reiner
Robert P. Wise: President/CEO
Hunterdon Medical Center
2100 Wescott Drive
Flemington, New Jersey 08822

Lawrence Grand: Vice President/COO
Hunterdon Medical Center
2100 Wescott Drive
Flemington, New Jersey 08822

Gail W. Kosyla: Chief Financial Officer
Hunterdon Medical Center
2100 Wescott Drive
Flemington, New Jersey 08822

Dr. Roksvaag: Chief Medical Officer/MD
Hunterdon Medical Center
2100 Wescott Drive
Flemington, New Jersey 08822

Salt Caves Massage Therapy USA
Licensed/Certified Treatment Center
170 State Highway 31
Flemington, New Jersey 08822

Pure Land Massage
Licensed/Certified Treatment Center
3 Walter E. Foran Boulevard
Flemington, New Jersey 08822

Advanced Medical Spa & Laser Center LLC
Licensed/Certified Treatment Center
170 State Highway 31 Suite # 5
Flemington, New Jersey 08822

 Forget Me Not Spa
Licensed/Certified Treatment Center
8 Reading Road
Flemington, New Jersey 08822

Crown Spa
Licensed/Certified Treatment Center
US Highway 202/31/Kuhl Road
Ringoes, New Jersey 08551
CC

Main Street Massage Therapy
Licensed/Certified Treatment Center
4 Walter E. Foran Boulevard, Suite # 404
Flemington, New Jersey 08822

LE Medical Spa
Licensed/Certified Treatment Center
121 State Highway 31
Flemington, New Jersey 08822

Relax Sensation
Licensed/Certified Treatment Center
325 US Highway 202
Flemington, New Jersey 08822

Steven B. Kalafer: President/CEO
Ditschman/Flemington Ford Lincoln
215 US Highway 202/31
Flemington, New Jersey 08822

Robert A. Facchina: President/CEO
Johanna Foods Inc.
Post Office Box 272
Flemington, New Jersey 08822

Joseph S. Colalillo: Chairman/CEO
Shop Rite/Flemington
272 US Highway 202/31
Flemington, New Jersey 08822

Jack J. Cust: President/CEO
Wiss & Company
5 Bartles Corner Road
Flemington, New Jersey 08822

Theodore Resnick: President/CEO
Flemington Department Store
151 State Highway 31
Flemington, New Jersey 08822

Martin Resnick: Secretary/COO
Flemington Department Store
151 State Highway 31
Flemington, New Jersey 08822
CC

Henry Y. Kuhl: President
Kuhl Corporation
Post Office Box 26
Flemington, New Jersey 08822

Kevin H. Kuhl: Vice President/CEO
Kuhl Corporation
Post Office Box 26
Flemington, New Jersey 08822

Jeffery B. Kuhl: Chief Operating Officer
Kuhl Corporation
Post Office Box 26
Flemington, New Jersey 08822

Rick Kuhl: Director of Human Resources
Kuhl Corporation
Post Office Box 26
Flemington, New Jersey 08822

Anthony P. Kearns, III, County Prosecutor
Hunterdon County Justice Center
Post Office Box 756
Flemington, New Jersey 08822-0756

Kelly Daniels: Assistant Prosecutor
Hunterdon County Justice Center
Post Office Box 756
Flemington, New Jersey 08822-0756

John J. Kuczynski: Chief of Detectives
Hunterdon County Justice Center
Post Office 756
Flemington, New Jersey 08822-0756

Frank R. Crisologo: Deputy Chief of Detectives
Hunterdon County Justice Center
Post Office Box 756
Flemington, New Jersey 08822-0756

Glenn S. Tabasko: Chief of Police
Raritan Township Police Department
Two Municipal Drive
Flemington, New Jersey 08822-1799
CC

Kevin Donovan: Captain
Raritan Township Police Department
Two Municipal Drive
Flemington, New Jersey 08822-1799

Al Payne: Lieutenant
Raritan Township Police Department
Two Municipal Drive
Flemington, New Jersey 08822-1799

Benedict Donaruma: Lieutenant
Raritan Township Police Department
Two Municipal Drive
Flemington, New Jersey 08822-1799

Thomas Camporeale: Chief of Detectives
Raritan Township Police Department
Two Municipal Drive
Flemington, New Jersey 08822-1799

Dennis B. Concannon: Fire Marshal
Township of Raritan: Department of Fire & Public Safety
One Municipal Drive
Flemington, New Jersey 08822-1799

Tony Hajjar: Township Engineer/Zoning Official
Township of Raritan
One Municipal Drive
Flemington, New Jersey 08822-1799

Hanzal Warnebold: Construction/Code Official
Township of Raritan
One Municipal Drive
Flemington, New Jersey 08822-1799

Karen B. DeMarco: County Health Inspector
Hunterdon County Complex, Building # 1
314 State Highway 12
Flemington, New Jersey 08822

Frank Naggy: Board Chairman
Raritan Township Board of Health
One Municipal Drive
Flemington, New Jersey 08822-1799
CC

Mark Peters: Vice Chairman
Raritan Township Board of Health
One Municipal Drive
Flemington, New Jersey 08822-1799

Venkata Lanka: Board Member
Raritan Township Board of Health
One Municipal Drive
Flemington, New Jersey 08822-1799

Patrick Morlando: Board Member
Raritan Township Board of Health
One Municipal Drive
Flemington, New Jersey 08822-1799

Thomas F. Smith, II, Board Member
Raritan Township Board of Health
One Municipal Drive
Flemington, New Jersey 08822-1799

Carolee Zak: Board Member
Raritan Township Board of Health
One Municipal Drive
Flemington, New Jersey 08822-1799

Deborah Hoskins: Board Member
Raritan Township Board of Health
One Municipal Drive
Flemington, New Jersey 08822-1799

Jeannie Geremia: Board Member
Raritan Township Board of Health
One Municipal Drive
Flemington, New Jersey 08822-1799

Donald Hutchins: Township Administrator
Township of Raritan
One Municipal Drive
Flemington, New Jersey 08822-1799

Lisa Fania: Municipal Clerk
Township of Raritan
One Municipal Drive
Flemington, New Jersey 08822-1799
CC

Donald T. DiFrancesco: Certified Trial Counsel
DiFrancesco Bateman Law Group
15 Mountain Boulevard
Warren, New Jersey 07059

Jeffery B. Lehrer: Certified Trial Counsel
DiFrancesco, Bateman Law Group
15 Mountain Boulevard
Warren, New Jersey 07059

Edward Purcell: Certified Trial Counsel
DiFrancesco, Bateman Group
15 Mountain Boulevard
Warren, New Jersey 07059

Senator Christopher "Kip" Bateman
New Jersey's 16th Legislative District Office
36 East Main Street
Somerville, New Jersey 08876

John E. Lanza: Freeholder Director
County of Hunterdon
PO Box 2900, Building # 1, Third Floor
Flemington, New Jersey 08822-2900

John W. King: Deputy Freeholder Director
County of Hunterdon
PO Box 2900, Building # 1, Third Floor
Flemington, New Jersey 08822-2900

J. Mathew Holt: County Freeholder
County of Hunterdon
PO Box 2900, Building # 1, Third Floor
Flemington, New Jersey 08822-2900

Suzanne Lagay: County Freeholder
County of Hunterdon
PO Box 2900, Building # 1, Third Floor
Flemington, New Jersey 08822-2900

Robert G. Walton: County Freeholder
County of Hunterdon
PO Box 2900, Building # 1, Third Floor
Flemington, New Jersey 08822-2900