To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing you today on behalf of my Structural Integration Practitioner, [name], in regard to the plans for reopening businesses after shelter in place. I want to speak to the essential role that they play in my life and wellbeing, as well as the care that they take to run their business in a way that promotes my safety and health.

My practitioner is highly trained, and I would consider them to be different than your average Massage Therapist. The work we do in sessions specifically addresses the pain I experience in my body, whether it be chronic or due to a recent injury. The treatment I receive is more similar to that of a Physical Therapist than a Massage Therapist.

While isolation was necessary to prevent the spread of COVID19 and the overwhelm of hospitals in the Spring, when looking at the numbers that we are experiencing locally currently, it is hard to understand how my Structural Integration Practitioner with a private practice could have a greater effect on those numbers than a hair salon. Along with that point, the value that they provide to my health, is much more essential to me than the value of a haircut. My practitioner provides therapeutic work that helps me with pain and in turn be more physically functional and emotionally balanced. With all that has been going on in the last few months, I can feel the need for this specific type of therapy and care that I cannot receive elsewhere.

My Structural Integration Practitioner has been in touch with me about extra precautions, beyond the practices they were taking pre-COVID19, that they are planning on implementing to make sure that I will be safe during my sessions. Specifically, they have mentioned that they intend to follow the Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards Guidelines for Practice with COVID-19 Considerations: <https://www.fsmtb.org/media/2319/fsmtb20200519guidelinesforpracticecovid-19.pdf>

Some of the practices they’ve mentioned include but are not limited to:

* Taking more time in between clients to clean their studio according to CDC protocols
* Providing facemasks for my session as well as wearing one of their own while working
* Using plastic sheets and face cradle covers so they can more easily disinfect their tables
* Providing hand sanitizer or handwashing stations for me to clean my hands pre and post session
* Installing a HEPA air filter which will be in use during business hours

Again, these are just some of the protocols my practitioner has been communicating to me in regard to how they will be adapting their practice post-COVID19. I implore you to reconsider where Structural Integration Practitioners are placed on the timeline of reopening businesses. I know my practitioner is essential to my wellbeing. I regularly put the health of my physical body literally in their hands, and deeply trust them to hold it in the highest regard.

Thank you for your consideration and your time.

Sincerely,