To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing you today on behalf of my Massage Therapist/bodyworker, [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 run their business in a way that promotes my safety and health.

My practitioner works with me in ways that not only promote my physical health, but also my emotional wellbeing. During the months of shelter in place, I can say one of the main things that I was missing was the therapeutic touch I receive in my massage therapy/bodywork sessions. The months of not being able to receive the amount of every day human contact that I am accustomed to has taken a toll on my emotional health. While the 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 a massage therapist/bodyworker 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 Massage Therapist/bodyworker 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 Massage Therapist/bodyworker 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 they are intending 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>

To highlight some of the practices they’ve mentioned include:

* Taking more time in between clients to clean according to CDC protocols and air out their space
* Providing facemasks for my session as well as wearing one of their own while working
* Using plastic sheets and face cradle covers so that they can more easily disinfect their tables with EPA approved disinfectants
* 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 therapist has been communicating to me about the protocols they will be instilling to adapt their practice, post-COVID19. I implore you to reconsider where Massage Therapists 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,