

Jack Webb, Derry Town Councilor
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My name is Jack Webb, I am an At-Large Derry Town Councilor and the Council Liaison to the Derry Police and Fire Departments. I am also a retired Derry Firefighter/Paramedic who spent the last seventeen of my thirty-three years on Derry Fire as a Battalion Chief and training officer. More importantly, I am husband and father to an adult child, and a grandfather to a little girl.

I am asking this committee to support HB1469, “relative to the licensing and inspections requirements for massage therapy establishments, and making an appropriation therefor”. I feel that the bill is excellent as written and should pass without amendment.

It has been an eye-opening experience for me as a Town Councilor to learn about the pervasiveness of illicit massage parlors, not only in my community but across the state. The following three things I experienced as a Derry Town Councilor in 2025:

1. A good friend of mine was driving through Derry, on Birch Street (a main road in Derry, near Parkland Medical Center) with his young son and daughter. When the daughter stated “I need a spa day! Can I go there!” And pointed to a ground level apartment in a mixed use, former house, whose shades were all drawn, but had a neon sign in a window saying, “Asian Spa.” Obviously, she did not know that she just pointed out a whorehouse, but her father, a current Derry Firefighter/Paramedic did.

Obviously, he couldn’t tell a pre-teen girl and say “Oh, that’s a whorehouse. The women there are illegally smuggled into our United States by violent organized crime gangs, who force them into sexually slavery by addicting them to drugs, physical and mental beatings, and threats to beat or kill their family back in China. This is done so that a very few people can pay these slaves for sexual gratification all while being exposed to often dirty environments and at the risk for getting and then spreading, syphilis, gonorrhea, chlamydia, and HIV.” Instead, her father told me he did not know what to tell her and just said: “Oh, that’s not a good place, you don’t want to go there.”

2. In April the Derry Town Council heard an appeal from a female owner of a massage parlor appealing the revocation of her Town of Derry license to operate. She arrived in an expensive white Mercedes sedan with New York License Plates, accompanied by three Asian males. Two of them were dressed in track suits, with gold chains, and sat in back of the council chambers just glaring at us. My impression was that they looked just like a bad stereotype from an Asian Gangster Movie.

The third Asian man, spoke on behalf of the Asian women, because she “does not

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speak English.” Our Building Inspector Testified that he found internet advertising specific to her business that included professional photos of scantily clad, young, Asian Girls, in suggestive poses advertising sex. The advertising also included the location, whether or not parking for semi-trucks was available, and how to discretely enter the establishment without being observed.

We then heard from the translator who stated they had hired an advertising firm from California but never checked to see what they were advertising; and that they were just innocent victims of bad advertising. The Derry Town Council unanimously voted to rescind their business license. This was the second appeal that we heard in 2025. A few weeks before, we unanimously voted to rescind the license of a different illegal massage parlor when our building inspector discovered that the Asian women listed on the license had been *convicted of felony prostitution* a few years before in Delaware.

3. On May 19, 2025, an Asian male was stabbed and murdered during a robbery at 4 Peabody Road Annex in Derry. This homicide was linked to illegal gambling that was being done in a back room of an Asian Spa. See: <https://www.doj.nh.gov/news-and-media/arrests-made-homicide-investigation-derry-new-hampshire> This sounds like an Asian version of a Sopranos episode.

Shutting down these spas is like playing whack-a-mole, you shut down eight and two reappear. To help keep gangs, organized crime, human trafficking, prostitution (with its associated public health and sexually transmitted diseases) out of our communities we need a multi-agency approach; and this bill does that.

Thank you for working to keep our State, healthy and safe.

Jack Webb