

I am Hannah Bandy, a member of the Connecticut Association of Professional Tattooers, and I am for bill no.6666. Raised bill no.6666 is vital for the sustainability of the future of tattooing and keeping the public safe. At this time, I have recently completed my apprenticeship and am pursuing the next step in order to become fully licensed. The contents of this bill are vital in order to continue a sustainable future for tattooing as a whole. In order to do so, professional tattooers must be directly involved in the legislative process. This is a necessity. Without professional tattooers, there is a gap of knowledge. For instance inspections of shops. Without a proper inspection, it leaves the public susceptible to diseases and infections, the lack of guidelines increasing chances of transmission. For a proper inspection to be conducted, there needs to be a sharing of information between professionals and the Department of Health and Public Safety. As is, public safety is the number one priority for any profession, and turning away this bill means to turn away the public's right to educated and safe practice.

Another point raised in the bill is the number of apprentices that is to be limited per artist. As is, any artist can have any number of apprentices as they'd like. There must be a limit on the number of apprentices allowed. To ensure a proper and thorough education during an apprenticeship, there should be a one to one ratio between mentor and student. Without this, there will be limits to what someone can learn. A classroom based education is not enough when concerning the skills and risks that tattooing is presented with. Without proper training and attention to detail, there is a disparity between knowledge and safety, as not enough time can be spent between the two when there are more than two apprentices at the same time. With a limit of two apprentices per shop, it will allow a comfortable working environment and promote consistent learning which will allow public safety and security.

In regards to apprentices, there should be a restriction of only being allowed to take on apprentices when the mentor has at least five years worth of experience. This will allow for the credibility of the learning and ensure that those who are apprentices will be taught in proper fashion including safety procedures.

For public safety and the ability to continue with the sustainable practice of tattooing, this bill must go through.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on this matter,
Hannah Bandy