

My name is Odete DaSilva, executive chair of the CT Beauty Association formed in 2020 for the interests of personal service professionals and businesses within the state of Connecticut. We are a nonprofit trade association with 3600+ members and growing. I am reaching out to learn the best way to connect with the public health committee in regards to reinstating the parts of the cosmetology license that were lost. We recently became aware of the HB6666 and its inclusion to reinstate parts of our license but it does not include the full reinstatement of what the cosmetology license had been to include barbering, esthetics, waxing and nails. Many cosmetologists have invested time in schooling all of these services at 1500hrs or more, paid the tuition at an average of \$15,000-\$20,000, tested within the boards to include all of these services and passed those boards that included these services to then have been issued a full license. Beauty schools within CT have been educating and charging for all of these services with the understanding that they are part of the cosmetology licensing as they have been part of the board certified testing to receive a cosmetology license. The impact of not fully reinstating the cosmetology license to include barbering, esthetics, waxing and nails will prohibit many cosmetologists from having the legal right to perform these services that in the past had always provided income to support themselves and their families. In addition, it is expected that the beauty school businesses will be seriously impacted with losses of revenue from what is expected to be a reduction of licensing hours because these services would no longer be included within the previously known cosmetology curriculum that would normally be generated. We are hopeful that the committee agrees to reinstate the all of the cosmetology license and not just the limited parts mentioned within the HB6666 but rather to reinstate it as it had always been to include cosmetology (hairdressing), barbering, esthetics, waxing and nails.

Unfortunately, we learned of the HB6666 public hearing on Monday March 29 after it had been completed or we as the CTBA board would have attended. Once learning of the hearing we reached out to as many members of CTBA as were available last minute to respond with a letter of testimony that they have emailed to this committee. We would request an opportunity to further discuss the issue. I have been trying to make contact with the Public Health Committee and have not been successful in receiving a response or information to better connect. Kindly pass this email on to the committee or those of interest to discuss further. I look forward to hearing back.

Thank you,

Odete DaSilva

CT Beauty Association CTBA