

Date of hearing: March 29, 2021

Committee: Public Health

I would like to thank the members of this committee for allowing me the opportunity to testify in response to HB6666 an act concerning the cosmetology license and restoring the license.

I am a cosmetologist in the State of Connecticut but I'm also, a barber, my name is Linda DiPalma from New London, I work and own a shop in the same town. Twenty-five years ago I graduated from Cosmetology School. When I applied, I specifically told the school that I wanted to be a barber. I was told that CT offers 2 licenses but barbering was considered only a partial license and that cosmetology was a full license. It didn't make sense to only receive a partial license since school required 1500 hours which was just under a year full time. The head teacher and school owner Albert would instruct me separately at times because he knew of my aspirations of being a barber.

Under my current license I was taught everything a full license required and I was required to take my state board test that includes not only cosmetology but also barbering, esthetics, waxing, and nails. I have accomplished and earned this right to not have my license, one that I've carried for two and a half decades, to not be stripped of any of these services.

I have been the owner and operator of a Barbershop in New London for 11 years. Twelve years before that, I was a Barber and manager of a Barbershop in Groton. I have others that currently work with me that are in the same situation, we would all be greatly effected by the passing of HB6666. This is how we make a living, it's how we support our families, our communities. Do not take away what we've worked for and what is legally ours.

Thank you,

Linda DiPalma