

Dear CT State Senators and CT State Representatives of the Public Health Committee,

Thank you for your time.

Please strongly reconsider re-including the Tattoo Technician Language in: House Bill 6666- An Act Concerning the Department of Public Health's Recommendations Regarding Various Revisions to The Public Health Statutes before being voted out of the committee.

My name is Celeste Drewin, and tattooing has been my passion since I was five years old. Now almost 40 I was finally able to pursue my dreams after raising four children for seventeen years. I am happy to say that I am recently fully licensed and have been enjoying my dream for a year. Unfortunately, the young man that I apprenticed alongside with, who was just licensed in August, has three apprentices. Under no circumstance has anyone in that short time learned enough to take on an apprentice, let alone three. He is doing a disservice to the rest of the industry, and is a public health and safety risk. Many tattoo artists are working hard to make the tattooing industry a respected one, viewed as legitimate and more importantly, safe. The public comes to us with blind trust knowing we are licensed, and believing we have the training to give them a beautiful tattoo with proper hygienic techniques. These important lessons cannot be adequately taught in poor apprenticeships. A tattoo artist should be licensed for a minimum of five years before being allowed to teach, and should have a limit of one or two apprentices at a time. An apprenticeship should be a minimum of 2000 teaching hours, to adequately prepare them to safely tattoo the general public.

I realize you will receive a lot of people arguing the opposing view, but their arguments will be rooted in selfishness rather than the public's best interest. Tattoo artists who want these regulations in place, have the best interest of the industry but more importantly, the health and safety of the general public, in mind. I know that the CT Public Health Committee could agree, that is of the utmost importance.

Sincerely,

Celeste Drewin