



Connecticut Association of Professional Tattooers

Dear Ct State Senators and State Representatives on the Public Health Committee,

I am writing to you to please consider keeping the section on the language change regarding tattoo technicians and licenses within the DPH's revision bill.

This has been an ongoing mutual project between the Ct Health Department and The Connecticut Association of Professional Tattooers for the past three years. We have both come together to make sure that we (ct licensed tattoo technicians) are able to have our voices heard when it comes to our professions and regulations.

Our current license language was made without any input from any tattoo technicians. This simply put means there are a lot of loop holes and negative turnarounds. The DPH has specifically reached out to us (the Connecticut Association of Professional Tattooers) in order to try to have our section be put back in. We, as an association would very much like to keep our ongoing communication and involvement in how our license can actually be used to maintain our craft instead of harming it with loosely written regulations done so by no one in our profession.

One major loop hole we are trying to currently change is that there is no say on the knowledge or experience a mentor should have before acquiring an apprentice or the amount of apprentices that one mentor may have at one given time. This is causing a very large problem within our profession. There are so many licensed unqualified mentors charging astronomical amounts of money to sign off on multiple students. This is not what we as professionals deem correct. In fact most tattooers spend far more time than the current 2,000 hours deemed necessary by the license requirements because there is so much to learn. Tattooing has always been a profession past down by elders in the tattoo community (meaning much more than 5 years). We are asking for just a bare minimum of 5 years.

We as a group of more than 100 professional licensed ct tattooers do not believe this is neither a proper or safe way to educate new apprentices. Tattooing is a very one on one craft that not being properly educated, a new tattoo technician will leads to awful experiences both on a skill and cleanliness level for the client. By including this revision we can keep the customers much safer.

We as professionals have and still do hold our standards much higher than this and would like to continue our professional relationship with the Ct Health Department in order to keep our profession safe for our public in Ct.

We strongly urge you to please put the language regarding tattoo technicians back in the Ct Health Departments bill of revisions.

Thank you so much again for your time,
Kelly Green - Connecticut Association of Professional Tattooers
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