

DATE of PUBLIC HEARING: March 29, 2021

COMMITTEE: PUBLIC HEALTH

**TESTIMONY IN RESPONSE TO HB6666 AN ACT CONCERNING THE
COSMETOLOGY LICENSE AND RESTORING ALL OF THE LICENSE.**

I would like to thank the esteemed 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 cosmetologist in the state of Connecticut, my name is Debra Ward from Hamden. I was licensed in 1982 and have worked consistently in the profession for 39 yrs.

As a cosmetologist I am required to attend schooling for 2,100 hours a 2 year term, to learn not only cosmetology but also barbering, esthetics, waxing and nails. The average beauty school costs are \$15,000 - \$20,000 to complete school to include all these services. We have always been required by the health department to take a state board that reflects testing of all these services, not just cosmetology and this is still true today. Passing the state board test that includes not only cosmetology but also barbering, esthetics, waxing and nails is required to apply for a cosmetology license. I have accomplished and earned this right, the services of barbering, esthetics, waxing and nails should now not be or ever have been stripped from my license.

The HB6666 only includes restoring waxing and esthetics to the cosmetology license. To properly restore and fix the cosmetology license; barbering, esthetics, waxing and nails needs to all be restored to the cosmetology license as I had always known it to have been, as I had spent time going to school to be educated on all these services, as I had and many still are required to pass state boards based on state of Connecticut curriculum of these services, as beauty schools are still teaching these services in there curriculum and then the state boards are made up of these service curriculums.

Passing HB6666 as it is written would impede my ability to earn income to help support myself and my family. I have always earned income from some or all these services. Should I choose too, I should have the right to legally continue earning income from these services to help provide for myself and my family.

These services have been stripped from my license that I legally attained by spending 2 years in school, paying for my education, and passing a State of Connecticut board to be legally licensed, to perform all these services to include cosmetology, barbering, esthetics, waxing and nails. The right to perform all these services should be restored to my cosmetology license to allow me the opportunity to continue to earn this income to support myself and my family.

Do not take away from me what is legally mine. Thank you for your consideration. I would love to answer any questions you may have. I can be reached at dwardct@aol.com

Thank you,

Debra Ward