

Testimony in opposition to House Bill 1426
Amber Hill, Bismarck ND
Feathered Beauty Studio

As a stylist and owner/operator of a small independent salon, I feel an obligation and responsibility to stand opposed to House Bill 1426. In the cosmetology industry, the health and safety of our clients are at the top of the priority list. To provide hair care and cosmetic services, such as hair preparation, styling, and eyelash extensions, a professional should be held to the highest standards. To maintain these high standards and the safety of the public, the proper education and training is necessary. A professional with this understanding and the appropriate certification should be the only individuals allowed to provide these services. By opening up and deregulating the industry, the standard of care and safety will be greatly reduced.

Industry professionals, such as myself, have invested the time, energy and money necessary to receive the certifications and pass the appropriate inspections so that clients are guaranteed services that meet quality standards. As a licensed professional, it is disheartening to learn that elected leaders are looking to lower the standards of these services- and at a time when health and safety should be in the forefront of our interests- as we are still in the middle of a global health crisis.

The cosmetology industry, like many others, has struggled the past year because of the pandemic. With temporary closure, limited capacity, and not qualifying for the majority of financial assistance programs, the income and profit for many stylists has been greatly reduced.

This proposed change to the industry is bad, and the timing is worse. I encourage a "no" vote on this bill.