

TO: House Industry, Business, and Labor Committee

FROM: Lance Ekern, President of the North Dakota Barber Board of Examiners

DATE: 1/9/23 10:30 AM

RE: Testimony in support to House Bill 1112

To the Committee,

My name is Lance Ekern. I am the president of the North Dakota Barber Board of Examiners as well as being a Master Barber since 2006. I regret I am unable to attend in person but wanted to make it known I am in support of HB 1112 with the proposed amendments related to exemptions from regulation of barbers, barber licensure fees, and disciplinary hearings for barbers.

Education of barbers is important to furthering and maintaining the integrity of this profession. Educational opportunities, as you can imagine, are becoming increasingly more expensive. Increasing the amount of \$5 from every licensing renewal to an amount not exceeding \$10 would help compensate for the rising costs to ensure that continuing education will be of high quality that will ensure that these standards are carried out to the public in a safe and sanitary manner.

The red, white, and blue striped pole has long been associated with the barbering profession. It is false advertising for a business that does not employ a licensed barber to hang a barber pole as it suggests to the public that they are receiving services from a barber. To maintain quality and the integrity of this profession it is imperative that the barber pole be reserved only for licensed barbers.

I am also in favor of the amendment changes to section 43-04-41. This ensures that the hearing is conducted and in accordance with North Dakota Century Code.

I would like to thank the committee for allowing me to testify in support of this bill that will continue to allow barbers to serve the public to the highest standards for years to come.

Sincerely,

Lance Ekern

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