

TO: House Industry, Business, and Labor Committee

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

DATE: 3/3/23

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.

There is often confusion about the difference between a cosmetologist and a barber. While there are certainly many similarities between the two professions, they require different trainings and are governed by separate boards. The red, white, and blue striped pole has long been associated with the barbering profession and is deeply rooted in our history. Barbers would like to protect the integrity of the profession by ensuring that others are not advertising they are barbers or giving an impression they are a barber by hanging a barber pole and offering barbering services.

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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