

January 26, 2021

North Dakota House Human Services Committee
North Dakota Legislative Assembly
State Capitol
600 East Boulevard
Bismarck, ND 58505-0360

RE: Opposition to HB 1426

Dear Human Services Committee Members,

On behalf of our licensed beauty professionals in the state of North Dakota, I respectfully urge you to oppose House Bill 1426, which will allow individuals to provide blow-dry and styling services without a license or training. I would like to share information and data regarding the importance of licensing and regulations during this time of COVID-19 where safety and sanitation is key to stopping the spread of the virus. Extra measures are required by the state for licensed beauty professionals to continue to provide services for clients due to physical contact.

The Professional Beauty Association (PBA), a national non-profit membership association, provides business education, government advocacy, and events to ensure career success with integrity. Part of our mission is to share knowledge regarding consumer safety and professional accountability.

Legislation and regulations establish mandatory educational requirements to ensure competency, which are verified by state testing. Accountability and the requirement for training is established through licensing. Proper sanitation procedures are necessary to minimize the threat of viral and bacterial infections, such as COVID-19, influenzas, severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), herpes simplex virus/human papillomavirus (HSV/HPV), methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus (MRSA), ringworm and folliculitis.

Trained in the areas of skin and scalp care, anatomy, biology, chemistry, and science-based infection control, licensed professionals care about the health and safety of their clients. As we learn to work with the COVID pandemic, high safety and sanitation standards are a requirement and serious considerations must be made to ensure beauty services are safe due to skin to skin contact.

As elected representatives for the state of North Dakota you create laws to protect consumers. Regulating the professional beauty industry provides for the requirements necessary to ensure proper training and education of beauty professionals that will have physical contact with constituents in your district.

With the continuing spread of COVID-19, your support of the current regulations for licensed beauty professionals will allow your constituents to receive services in North Dakota from licensed individuals that are properly trained in safety and sanitation. I ask you to please oppose House Bill 1426.

Sincerely,



Steve Sleeper, Executive Director
Professional Beauty Association