

March 19, 2021

RE: Testimony against HB1426

Dear Chairman, Senators, & Committee members,

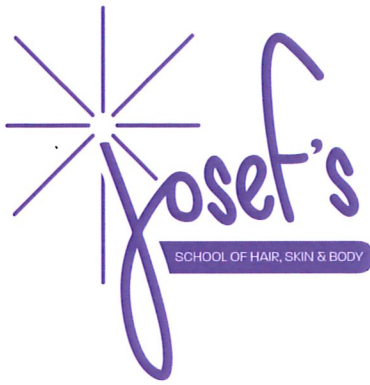
My name is Todd Anderson, I work for Josef's School of Hair, Skin & Body doing financial aid and general day-to-day operations. Although, I am not a licensed Cosmetologist or Skin Esthetician I have great respect and admiration for the professions as well as for the students that walk through our doors on their way to become licensed professional stylists.

HB1426 is a dangerous proposal, the repercussions of which will be felt by:

- Current licensed beauty professionals. Their education and commitment to the industry they care for and clients they respect will be minimized. Their livelihoods will be put in jeopardy.
- Salon owners. Licensed and inspected salons stand to be subject to "guilt by association" of poor press from mishaps in unregulated facilities. Their stylists will be negatively financially impacted which in turn will trickle up to negatively impact the salon owner's ability to employ as many stylists or even continue to operate.
- ND Board of Cosmetology. Registration and licensing fees may decrease while complaints from guests of unregulated facilities and services would increase.
- The state of ND. Reduction in sales tax collected at licensed salons, reduction of income tax from licensed stylists, and a significant increase in untaxed income being recognized by unregulated individuals.
- Clients and their safety.

The curriculum laid out by the ND Board of Cosmetology sets a solid educational foundation for aspiring professionals. Students need to understand the science within the skin and hair to insure that during each client consultation they are asking the proper questions, including (but not limited to) current chemicals in their hair, current products using on skin or hair, allergies, etc. Being a part of a larger regulated group means each professional is being held to certain set of minimum standards including continuing education requirements, 12 hours per year. Despite efforts to educate thoroughly during their time in-school as well as through continuing education credits oversights and mistakes do happen. However, they are currently happening under the care of licensed professionals in licensed inspected and safe facilities affording them the best chance to recognize a potential issue, stop significant damage and set forth a corrective action plan. Through deregulation of services education and oversight would cease and so the number of mistakes and their severity would increase.

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Guests have a right to know that no matter what salon they choose to patron within North Dakota they will be handled professionally and safely by licensed stylists in licensed facilities. The deregulation proposed in HB1426, if allowed, would open the door and allow unlicensed professionals to operate unregulated and unsupervised potentially allowing such individuals to go beyond their scope of practice as well as operate in unsafe or unsanitary facilities. The hair and skin industry holds its self to a very high standard in regards to sanitation and safety. Proof of this is within the past year little to no community spread came from salons and spas as we have always sanitized and disinfected to the highest standards. Coming off of the past year we as a state and nation just had is no time to allow for the deregulation of safety and sanitation practices within the hair and skin professions.

I urge you to uphold North Dakota's current laws and practices that are clearly working showing hair and skin professionals within the state that they are see, heard, and valued within North Dakota.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Todd Anderson". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name.

Todd Anderson  
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