

House Bill 1345

Presented by: Abigail Christiansen
Americans for Prosperity North Dakota

Before: Senate Industry, Business, & Labor
The Honorable Jerry Klein, Chairman

Date: March 23rd, 2021

Chairman Klein and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 1426. My name is Abigail Christiansen. I am with Americans for Prosperity North Dakota. We are a policy advocate group working to create opportunity for hard working North Dakotans and fight for good policy. We support House Bill 1426 because it removes barriers to earning a living in the beauty industry and adds value to our economy.

HB 1426 exempts hair styling and make up application from the current licensing requirements. Contrary to the stock emails that are being distributed by the board, HB 1426, **does not**, under any circumstances affect the ability for cosmetologist to do their jobs as they currently are. This bill will directly affect freelance make-up artists and hair styler, many of whom are currently operating

unlicensed in other states, like Minnesota, with more welcoming laws.

Considering the curriculum weighted towards other services, and the amount of income generated plus operating cost, requiring a cosmetology license makes hair and makeup specialty services unviable in North Dakota.

We believe safety and sanitation is important which is why HB 1426 includes a requirement of a board approved sanitation component in order to qualify for the exemption. According to the North Dakota Board of Cosmetology's inspection reports, there have been no disciplinary actions taken against make-up and styling of hair. In an effort to meet in the middle with the cosmetology board regarding safety and sanitation, we have agreed to remove the exemption of eyelash extensions from the original bill and are only aiming to exempt simple hair styling and make up application with passage of House Bill 1426.

Like any other business, freelance businesses work on their reputation and the quality of their work. As a rural bride this summer in Delamere, ND, I want to hire someone for hair and make-up that has a good reputation and most importantly can come to me on location. It's unrealistic and outdated to think that all brides and bridal parties are traveling hours to a salon for hair and

makeup on the big day. Freelance is already happening and it's time to recognize these businesses as legitimate and allow them to contribute to our economy. By allowing freelancers in North Dakota, we are allowing the creation of businesses in North Dakota, which means an increase in tax revenue and accountability.

This is not a change to anything that cosmetologist can currently do or how they operate. House Bill 1426 is a lifeline to job creation, small businesses in rural North Dakota and an opportunity for economic growth.

Thank you and I will stand for any questions.

Abigail Christiansen

Americans for Prosperity North Dakota

Grassroots Engagement Director