

## House Bill 1345

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Before: House Human Services  
The Honorable Robin Weisz, Chairman

Date: January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Chairman Weisz 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 that aims 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, including lashes 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 stylists, many of whom are

currently operating underground or 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. It was also brought to our attention that photos of infected eyes have been shared with legislators, none of which are from North Dakota situations and many can be found in a simple google stock photo search.

There are already people applying makeup and styling hair legally without a license in North Dakota when they fall under one of the several carve outs. Beauty counters (Sephora, Ulta and Mary Kay) and nurses are two groups currently exempt from this requirement.

Like any other business, freelance businesses work on their reputation and the quality of their work. As a rural bride in Delamere, ND, I want to hire someone who is the best 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 It's unrealistic and outdated to think that all brides and bridal parties are traveling hours to a salon for hair and makeup on the big day.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.

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