

To local and State officials in response to Bill #1426

I strongly disagree and amend to kill bill #1426 due to the fact that I am a licensed cosmetologist and have taken the appropriate steps in order to obtain my license and learn the safety and rules that come with my industry. I attended high school at Fargo North high school and have dreamed of being a stylist since I could remember. I was often asked if I wanted to be poor or not successful. This was due to years of people thinking and saying cosmetology was not a proper career. Which is furthest from the truth. Yet now this group who is not even from our state wants to come in and deregulate even more of my career.

It is absolutely terrifying that a simple bill could potentially take away 20% of my salons income. In order for me to receive my license I had to clock hundreds of hours in sanitation education to learn how to properly sanitize my tools for my next client. It is not as simple as washing it. There are 3 different steps of sanitizing currently required by the ND state board of cosmetology. Did you know that? Did you know that by simply not switching combs between clients can spread things such as lice and scabies? It can be transferred from client to client when tools are not properly sanitized. Imagine sending your son, daughter, niece, nephew, or grandchildren to an unlicensed salon, even for a simple braid or curl style could result in said conditions leaving the parents or grandparents with a costly treatment regimen and traumatized children. When you could simply trust a fully licensed salon.

As a salon owner during the time of Covid we were one of the only industries that were mandated closed to flatten the curve. We stood by and followed the rules because it was licensing that taught us to do so. We were also one of the only industries that were fully open as of May 1st. It's because we had rules and regulations that we learned in school to guide us through a pandemic. Yes it is only styling and such but where does it stop?

We deserve more than this. We are still paying our student loans on the school that taught us to keep our client safe and happy.

We are the ones that prepare people for their birthdays, weddings, anniversaries and even their funerals.

We walk to the ends of the earth to keep people feeling their best. We shouldn't feel like we are not protected.

I beg you to vote against Bill #1426 to save your local hair salons. We did it the way you asked us to do it in the first place. Please honor our licenses

Chloe Benz  
Co-owner Salon 3|5  
Fargo, ND  
ChloeBenz222@gmail.com