

March 3, 2025

Hello Committee Members,

I am Debbie Medhurst, a licensed Esthetician and small business owner. I have been practicing esthetics for ten years in North Dakota. In regards to HB #1126 I would like to share my personal viewpoint.

The esthetics industry has evolved rapidly in recent years, highlighting the need for estheticians to be able to perform these advancements on our clients, without regulatory interference. We should be able to provide treatments that we are qualified to perform safely and that are uniquely tailored to our expertise, without any interruptions.

I believe that the medical industry is intruding upon the field of esthetics without possessing the same level of expertise and understanding of skin. As estheticians, we undergo comprehensive training with professional skincare companies and advanced skincare modalities to safely carry out.

SECTION 30. A new section to chapter 43-11 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows: License requirements – Additional certifications for advanced estheticians

I fully support the implementation of an additional licensing requirement for advanced estheticians. Granting estheticians, the ability to perform services like microneedling, advanced chemical peels, and non-ablative devices will enable us to better serve our clients and distinguish ourselves from those with entry-level licenses.

ADVANCE ESTHETICAN LICENSE – GRANDFATHER PROVISION

I support the idea of allowing an esthetician to be grandfathered in, as long as they possess the required documentation and experience. However, I DISAGREE with the necessity of obtaining additional hours for the advanced practice license. Having an

established practice and potentially needing to shut down to accumulate more hours would negatively impact my business.

I fully support adding microneedling but I do not feel this needs to be under the advanced esthetics. An esthetician, with a masters license, should be able to perform microneedling to a depth of .25mm, which is considered cosmetic and meets the FDA guidelines. It will be difficult for a solo esthetician to flourish and achieve success if we are required to collaborate with a medical director to provide these services. Securing a medical director is both challenging and expensive.

In addition, with the rise of skincare and beauty products on social media, many consumers are increasingly tempted to try at-home skincare treatments, especially when their esthetician is not permitted to perform them. Numerous companies now sell at-home chemical peels, microneedling devices, and serums with the same strengths and depths that licensed estheticians in North Dakota are allowed to administer—and in some cases, even deeper microneedling and stronger formulations. This poses a significant danger to consumers, as they lack the necessary training and skin knowledge to safely perform these treatments.

Additionally, it undermines the value of licensed estheticians and the extensive education we've completed. If consumers can attempt these procedures at home for a fraction of the cost, especially when their North Dakota estheticians are restricted from performing microneedling and are limited in their ability to offer certain chemical peels, why would they choose to seek professional care? I worry that this trend could ultimately threaten the future of professional esthetics.

I appreciate your attention to my written testimony.