To: Co-Chairpersons, Members of the Public Health Committee

March 25, 2019

Re: Testimony in Support of House Bill Number 1058: An Act Concerning the Licensure of Tattoo Technicians

This testimony is submitted on behalf of the Connecticut Environmental Health Association. My name is Brian Falkner, I am Chair of the Body Arts committee at the Connecticut Environmental Health Association (CEHA). I am also a Registered Sanitarian in the State of Connecticut employed by the City of New Britain. I have 11 years’ experience in my capacity as an Inspector, speaker and presenter at Body Arts Educational Seminars. The CEHA Executive Board supports bill 1058 with recommendations.

I believe the when 19a-92a was repealed and Connecticut General Statute Section 20-266 was adopted many things were overlooked. The current code only addresses the requirement for OSHA blood borne pathogen training, CPR training and 2000 practical hours as an apprentice. Bill 1058 addresses items such as limiting ratio of apprentices to licensed technicians. Also addressed in lines 194-216 are nine significant points previously omitted regarding tattooing procedures and infection control.

Addressing lines 47-51, the terms “decontaminate and sterilize with hospital grade cleaner” is vague the language also includes “instruments that may come in contact with skin or mucosal surfaces”. Utilizing the term hospital grade cleaner for proper sterilization procedures is concerning from a public health standpoint. This section should be reviewed and addressed.

Bill 1058 is the product of House Bill #5128 stemming from concerns from Connecticut’s industry professionals. As Public Health Officials we encourage the committee to endorse the proposed language with review of our concerns listed above.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Falkner, R.S.