March 22, 2019

Re: Support of Committee Bill #6742; AN ACT CONCERNING HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND STATE CONTRACTS AND THE LICENSING OF ESTHETICIANS, NAIL TECHNICIANS AND EYELASH TECHNICIANS.

Dear Labor and Public Employees Committee Co-Chairs: Robyn Porter, Senator Julie Kushner; AND

Government Administration and Elections Committee Co-Chairs: Senator Mae Flexer and Representative Daniel J. Fox:

My name is Mindy Chambrelli, I am the Chair of the Body Arts and Personal Services Ad Hoc Committee for the Connecticut Environmental Health Association.

The Connecticut Environmental Health Association (CEHA) is a membership organization composed of several hundred environmental and public health professionals, but primarily consisting of local health department Sanitarians, who are agents of the Directors of Health. Sanitarians at local health departments and health districts are mandated to conduct sanitary inspections at all barber, hairdressing and nail salons annually.

We have observed, first hand, infections, skin burns and eye irritation associated with hazardous practices and procedures in nail salons and day spas that do not possess nor demonstrate a minimum standard of education/experience or knowledge of potential risk and proper prevention.

On behalf of the CEHA organization, we would like to take a supportive position on the intent of the proposed Bill #6742. Not having a minimal standard of educational and practice requirements for these types of professions, poses an elevated risk to public health. Cosmetology education benefits not only the health of the consumer but also the cosmetologists as they are often working with harsh chemicals and in close contact with customers. Within the broad term of Cosmetology alone, there exists these specialized branches that require very delicate work around the face, eyes and nails.
The next logical course of action would be to establish a taskforce to develop the expanded language. This taskforce should be composed of Legislatures, State and Local Health officials, and industry professionals. Development of a standardized inspection approach should be discussed within this diversified taskforce.

Connecticut is the ONLY state in the Country without a licensing program for these industry professionals. I strongly urge you to support Bill #6742, AN ACT CONCERNING HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND STATE CONTRACTS AND THE LICENSING OF ESTHETICIANS, NAIL TECHNICIANS AND EYELASH TECHNICIANS.

Thank you for your consideration of our opinion.

In health,

Mindy Chambrelli, RS, REHS

President Elect CEHA

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