

**Written testimony of the Connecticut Society of Eye Physicians**  
**OPPOSING**  
**H.B.1254 An Act Allowing Electrologists to use Laser Technology for Hair Removal**  
**Prepared for the Public Health Committee**  
**March 5, 2007**

Senator Handley Representative Sayers and Members of the Public Health Committee, on behalf of the more than 300 members of the Connecticut Society of Eye Physicians (CSEP), we ask you to oppose H.B.1254 An Act Allowing Electrologists to use Laser Technology for Hair Removal.

Some time ago the medical examining board, after extensive research and deliberation determined that the removal of hair by means of a laser was a medical procedure. We support this ruling and believe the removal of hair follicles fall within the practice of cutaneous medicine. Hair follicles and skin are unique, when altered by a laser they can cause biologic change or damage living tissue. On the surface this may seem insignificant but in reality a laser can penetrate much deeper than the stratum corneum, which is the dead cell layer of the epidermis or the hair follicle. These powerful medical devices if used improperly can cause horrific scars, burns, infections, blindness if used near the eye, and permanent disfigurement of the skin.

Why then would we allow non-medical people such scope? Connecticut clearly believes that public safety must be upheld. Everyone can enjoy the highest level of healthcare available if we continue to preserve the medical statutes, which appropriately allow physicians to treat medical conditions.

In conclusion, Medical School is an essential prerequisite for treating diseases and medical conditions. Beauty school is not, it is however, essential for cosmetology, nail technology, make-up artistry and electrolysis or the non-permanent removal of hair by non laser devices. We urge you to oppose HB1254 which is not in the best interest of the safety of our patients.

Thank-you for your consideration and any questions can be directed to the Connecticut Society of Eye Physicians, P.O. Box 854, Litchfield, CT 06759. Tel (860)567-3787