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Public Health Committee
Raised Bill No. 1254

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I am a practicing electrologist in the Greater Hartford area for more than 10 years and I am here on behalf of the Connecticut State Electrology Association.

Our purpose here today is to incorporate laser and light based technology into our existing practice as a new modality for the permanent reduction of hair.

Electrologists have competently and successfully worked for over 130 years in removing hair using the most recent technology. We are trained to evaluate the skin, based on the Fitzpatrick scale of skin evaluation, and then decide on the type of treatment. The same criteria are used to determine the type of Laser or Intense Pulse Light (IPL) treatment. We have the knowledge base to determine when a dermatological condition will inhibit treatment and to refer our patients to a physician or dermatologists. We are experienced and trained in observing the thermal responses of skin that occur as a result of electrolysis treatment or laser. The fundamentals of electrolysis are intensity and timing the same fundamentals of laser hair removal.

In our practice, universal precautions and standards are applied. Our Infection Control Standards follow the most recent recommendations from the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and the Association for Practitioners in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC).

In order for our industry to move forward we must embrace new technology, specifically Laser/IPL treatments. In order to meet our patients diverse needs we must be allowed to employ the most current and advanced tools available. Neighboring States Massachusetts and New York and allow any trained technician to perform laser hair removal and many other states as well.

This current trade restriction has not only impacted our present patient database as more and more patients opt for laser hair removal, but will nullify any future growth of our industry. In addition, this ignores the requirements and needs of today's patients.

We are a dying industry and without your help and support to allow to us the tools available in today's technological world we are forced onto the path of extinction.

Respectfully yours,

Lina Haralambous