

**Testimony in support of HRB 5131: AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK  
FORCE ON NAIL SALONS AND NAIL TECHNICIANS**

Good morning Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter and distinguished members of the Public Health Committee. My name is Arlene Avery. I serve on the Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission as its Legislative Committee chair. I stand in support of raised House Bill 5131: An Act Establishing A Task Force On Nail Salons And Nail Technicians.

While statewide, our Asian American communities account for only 4.5% of Connecticut's population, the vast majority of nail salon workers and owners are Asian American. Of these workers, most are immigrants. Many are undocumented. Beyond language barriers, they struggle with not knowing their rights or who they can trust to turn to for help.

Connecticut is the only state in the nation that does not require nail technicians to be licensed. Connecticut requires barbers and hairdressers who cut hair to be licensed, but not nail technicians who often do more invasive procedures such as the cutting and scraping away of dead skin from customers' cuticles and foot calluses. These technicians are often exposed to toxic fumes from nail polishes and other beauty products. Toxic acrylic dust from the sculpting of false nails has been linked to cancer and miscarriages.

Beyond the known health hazards of nail salon work, there are also concerns of long work days without adequate breaks and inadequate wages or compensation. An effective task force will be able to investigate and collect data on all these areas of concern and report back to the Public Health Committee and the Legislature with helpful recommendations that will better serve our workers, our nail salon owners and the general public.

Thank you for your kind consideration on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Arlene Avery  
Stafford, CT

