I would like to provide my testimony opposing the proposed S.B. 548

To whom it may concern:

As a Licensed Hairdresser, I am opposed to S.B. 548, amending the general statutes to include hairdressers and cosmeticians under the barber apprenticeship provisions. The bill author is Senator Paul Formica from the 20th district.

The current Barber Apprentice provision falls under the Department of Labor. My primary concern is that the DOL does not have experience with professions that place their hands directly on other people, specifically:

1) the Department of Labor has very little experience with professions where errors and inadequately trained practitioners could transmit pathogens/disease to the public;

2) the Department of Labor should fully implement the barbering apprenticeship program to acquire this experience before being able to expand apprenticeships to cosmetology; and

3) the barber apprenticeship program approved by the legislature in 2015 is not currently being utilized to create more job opportunities as there are zero barber apprentices as of January 25, 2017.

Being part of a regulated professional industry and having professionals appropriately trained in safety, sanitation and infection control at schools, helps protect consumers and practitioners alike. That’s why I urge you to oppose Proposed S.B. 548.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

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