

# Public Health Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** SB-178

AN ACT REQUIRING THE EDUCATION AND TRAINING OF BARBERS,  
HAIRDRESSERS AND COSMETICIANS TO INCLUDE WORKING WITH

**Title:** TEXTURED HAIR.

**Vote Date:** 3/4/2024

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable

**PH Date:** 2/26/2024

**File No.:** 10

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## **SPONSORS OF BILL:**

The Public Health Committee

## **REASONS FOR BILL:**

Connecticut recognizes the importance of the unique services provided by hairdressers, barbers, and cosmeticians for their clientele. This bill requires that the Department of Public Health (DPH) in consultation with the CT Examining Board for Barbers, Hairdressers and Cosmeticians include in its curriculum requirements, the education and training in services for people with textured hair. These services must include working with various curl and wave patterns, hair thicknesses and volume. Regarding the curriculum for barbers only, this change must occur through DPH regulations.

## **RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:**

### **Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO):**

The Commission strongly supports this legislation which will provide the opportunity to continue to provide the equity and inclusivity begun by the recently passed CROWN Act. A hairdresser that refuses services to a Black prospective client because of the texture of their hair would be in violation of this Act. Failing to provide this education to service providers would leave them uneducated in working with textured hair and potentially open to complaints of discrimination.

## **NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:**

### **Myra Reddy, Texture Education Collective (TEC):**

TEC strongly supports this legislation as it will ensure that educated, trained, and licensed beauty professionals will be providing safe and sanitary hair service to their clients. This

legislation mirrors the mission of the TEC. The TEC provided these statistics regarding textured hair:

- 65% of stylists desire more training in styling textured hair
- 65% of high-fashion models report experiencing a stylist unable to work with their hair texture
- 65% of the world's consumer population has textured hair, creating a market of 1 billion people

**Brian Heindl, Director, Public Affairs & Governmental Relations, Henkel Corporation:**

Mr. Heindl shared that the Henkel Corporation has a portfolio of well-known brands which include hair care products Schwarzkopf Hair Care and DevaCurl. Deva Curl produces, and markets products sold to consumers with textured hair and is a founding member of TEC. The Henkel Corporation supports this legislation which will promote a more inclusive profession that can safely meet the needs of every individual while fostering inclusion, understanding and safe services.

**Marisa Tukpah, Manager, R & D Regulatory Innovation for DevaCurl:**

Ms. Tukpah delivered testimony supporting all the comments expressed by Mr. Heindl in the testimony above.

**Kelsey Johnson, Vice President, State Government Affairs, Personal Care Products Council (PCPC):**

Mr. Johnson spoke on behalf of the PCPC and its members expressing strong support for this legislation. The members of the PCPC are dedicated to diversity, equity and inclusion and have advocated for federal and state anti-discrimination legislation. PCPC supports this legislation fostering an inclusive future for the beauty industry.

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

None expressed.

**Reported by: Kathleen Panazza**

**Date: March 5, 2024**