

Ladies and Gentleman,

I am writing to you as a proponent of H.B. 2419

My name is Lori Ferguson and I have been a barber in the state of Kansas for 35 years. During my time in the industry I have been involved in many facets of the barbering world. The best years of my life were during the time I had the privilege of teaching students the craft and the intense pride involved in the livelihood they were about to embark in

This bill undoubtedly needs to be passed for numerous reasons. The language is somewhat antiquated and the board has done an outstanding job in cleaning it up and bringing it into modern times

-The barber pole has always been synonymous with our industry and should remain so. History is the key in the display of the pole and who and what it represents. It is reserved for barbering alone. If one desires to display it, then they should become a licensed barber, end of story.

-Infectious or contagious disease is obviously a very important subject and should never be taken lightly. Protecting the public is and always will be involved in barbering. Taking any steps to lower the standards will be detrimental to everyone who walks into a barbershop. I'm guessing that each of you would agree, as customers, parents and grandparents.

-Shaving with a razor has been a talent performed by barbers for thousands of years. Training and knowledge are key of course.

I for one, would not desire anyone untrained in the art of shaving to touch my head, face or NECK! .Again, if one wishes to shave, they should become a barber and learn the craft by professional standards.

-Raising Fee CAPS seems to be a hard concept for many to understand, however, it is rather simple in structure. A CAP is just that, a CAP. Our board has been very cognizant in the years that I have been paying fees, in that our licenses do not go up often, or go up to a cost prohibitive level. The raise in a CAP is the highest it can go, not the fee it will become. There has not been a raise in CAPS for over 10 years. I will pay my fees and be happy that our board has the intelligence to keep fees affordable and fair.

Moving on to some other highlights of this bill, I know without a doubt, the board has the barber, schools and the public as top priority.

-Notification of a name change or address is very important, as the inspector can only do their job if they can locate shops and schools for inspection and insure the correct information is reflected on any license issued.

-Prior convictions are very much a standard part of the licensing policy and procedure. This will assure fairness and safety features needed for transparency.

-Lowering the written exam score to 75% is an effort to allow the student testing a standard more comparable to mainstream grading systems.

-Chair lease licensing is needed for locating and inspecting barbers who work at shops as free agents.
The fee is very affordable.

In closing, I hope that I have helped to explain and simplify some of the information contained in this bill. Cleaning up parts of the language and making slight changes to verbiage are very much needed to bring our statutes up to date.

Thank you for your time,

Lori Ferguson