

Good Morning,

My name is Michelle Legg, I live in Olathe, have been a licensed Cosmetologist for 31 years, a licensed Cosmetology Instructor for 16 years, and I strongly oppose Senate Bill 434.

When most people think of Cosmetology school, they think about the movie/play *Grease* and the song, "Beauty School Drop-out". They think that Cosmetologists go into the industry because they just want to play with hair and makeup or that it's an easy thing that anyone can do. What they don't realize is how deep Cosmetology school dives into the science of the modalities that we teach. They don't realize that we teach Anatomy & Physiology, Chemistry, and Electricity. Why do we teach these? We teach these subjects because it is crucial for them to know and understand the body systems, muscles, and why the chemicals and other tools we use do what they do. The ultimate goal for this is so that we can keep our clients safe. The Cosmetology industry is so multi faceted, with so many different modalities, that the role of a school becomes, in my opinion, the most important part of a successful & safe career, It's the foundation that everything else builds on. Where does that fit in with why we are here today? Schools provide this foundation and start building on the basic skills while students are completing their required hours. One of those skills is basic hair removal that includes tweezing, threading, and waxing. School provides the proficiency, but the necessary skill level that needs to be achieved, the majority of the time, won't happen until after they have finished school and have been actively working in the industry. It is at that time that one would then add a specialty service, such as Sugaring.

It was stated in the Senate Committee hearing, by a representative of the Kansas Justice Institute, that a Cosmetology license is an unnecessary requirement to practice sugaring because it makes up less than 1% of current cosmetology curriculum and that it is not tested during the examination process.

It may appear this way, but I assure you, it is not. Safety and sanitation in the Cosmetology industry is fluid, by this I mean that a standard is taught that encompasses all of the modalities that fall under the Cosmetology umbrella, Currently, curriculum requires 40 actual hours of safety and sanitation and makes up 40% of the state board written exam.

When I think about what it would look like if this bill passes, quite honestly, it scares me.

It scares me because the public trusts us, as professionals, to keep them safe. They trust that when they go into a facility for a service, that the service they are getting will be done by a provider that has completed the required training to provide the service and one that strictly adheres to proper infection control procedures.

They trust that the state is doing its best to keep them safe by ensuring that the provider has completed the required training hours, successfully tested, and is licensed. Should there be an issue with any of these, they trust that they can report it to the Board of Cosmetology, and they will investigate.

They also trust that the KBOC is doing random inspections to ensure that licensees are continuing to adhere to proper infection control practices after receiving their initial license.

What many don't realize is that the Board of Cosmetology provides an additional layer of protection for the public by having a process that convicted felons must go through, if they want to be licensed. They

must demonstrate to the board that they have been sufficiently rehabilitated to warrant the public's trust.

If this bill passes and sugaring is deregulated, all of this will go away. There will be no required training, infection control will consist of reading a pamphlet and answering a few questions. There will be no one to ensure that service providers are not double dipping or reusing implements without proper disinfection, which is a great way to spread infection and STDs. There will be no one to ensure that someone that is on the offender registry doesn't set up a shop and start offering intimate sugaring services to the general public.

It is for these reasons that I strongly oppose this bill.

Thank you for your time.

Michelle Legg