

My name is Ashley Hoffmeier. I am a recent graduate from a licensed beauty college in Kansas. Prior to my schooling in the esthetics field, I worked as a certified Crime Scene Investigator for 14.5 years. I maintain a B.S. in Forensic Science & Biology and I have experience working in both Missouri and Kansas. I thank the committee for taking the time to hear my testimony here today as I consider this attempt to deregulate a service from our licensing statutes to be very concerning for the consuming public in the State of Kansas.

I want to start with sharing, I hope everyone on this committee takes a “pause” on this thought of deregulating a beauty service in our state. There are many reasons this industry is regulated with the most important reason being to protect those receiving services. Hair removal is one of the more dangerous and invasive services in a licensed practice, contrary to what the proponents of this Bill would have you believe. There are many contraindications to consider before any hair removal service is performed on a client. My recent training provided me with the understanding of the many steps essential for infection control as well as blood exposure events and why these steps are so critical to ensure a client is well protected from potential harm.

Prior testimony in support of this Bill used EMT training as a comparison. This concerns me for a myriad of reasons. First these industries are not directly related and should not be compared. From the outset it could seem like the argument is that EMT training is MORE important than esthetics training based on how this was delivered to you, our legislators. EMT training is important and those trained in this area are well respected. It is important to share that those licensed in esthetics are also WELL respected.

It has been stated that the requirement to become an EMT (Emergency Medical Technician) consists of merely 150 hours of training. Having worked alongside those in that profession, in both Kansas & Missouri, I believe this to be misinformation. In Kansas & Missouri, Fire Departments & Emergency Care Services require a MINIMUM of 150-220 hours of in person educational training followed by rigorous continued hours of on-the-job training. Also, there exists a difference between an EMT and a Paramedic as EMT's are considered a support role and are NOT able to administer IV's or medication and can only assist with CPR. Employers of first responders and emergency personnel are moving toward more advanced training and stricter regulations as society puts more pressure on those providers to keep both employees and citizens safe.

Deregulation in this field is a dangerous and slippery slope. In a human contact field, so deeply rooted in science, we must require significant education and training. Without it I believe we will find ourselves dealing with exposure events, ill-trained providers, and employees who are taken advantage of. We should be striving to evolve and advance this field. Deregulation would create a step back.

I appreciate your time and consideration in this matter.