

Testimony in Opposition to Senate Bill 348

Chairperson Hilderbrand and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for allowing me to provide testimony in opposition to Senate Bill 348.

My name is Stephenie Dugan and I have held a Cosmetology license (#000-12557) 28 years as well as an Instructor's License (#006-12557) for the last 10 years with the Kansas Board of Cosmetology.

One of the things that we consistently do in everyday practices as well as the teachings of Cosmetology, is the safe practice of disinfection and sanitation. It is imperative that this be learned and instilled in the minds of those who practice in our industry, to keep not only our guests safe, but our facility safe as well. While speaking on the proper disinfection and sanitation, it is important that professionals, whether they are currently licensed or future professionals working toward becoming licensed, should be given the knowledge and awareness of washing their hands properly, benefits to using disposable gloves, the importance of single use items, such as, towels, thread, cotton rounds just to name a few. It is equally important to know how to properly store, both clean and dirty, items used and why. It is also important to know how to sterilize their instruments that are not single use, such as tweezers & scissors. When all items are not properly stored, it may cause various medical complications to the guest. These complications can be caused by, but not limited to, unsanitized hands of the practitioner, improper storage of materials used, or even the lack of awareness and knowledge of sanitation.

As if the proper sanitation, disinfection, and storage is not enough, the comprehension of the structure of the skin is equally important. Without that knowledge, the practitioner can harm those who receive this service. Threading can be performed on many areas of the face but it is important to point out that the brow area is a delicate area. If done improperly, it can cause discoloration of the skin, infection, warts, a rash, or injury or inflammation to the blood capillaries.

As a licensed professional, I strongly believe that threading should remain under the supervision of the Kansas Board of Cosmetology, to continue routine compliance inspections in order to monitor the proper sanitation and disinfection, for the safety of licensed practitioners and our clients.

I want to thank you for your time and consideration of my testimony.