

Claudia Jimenez-Hernandez

Good morning to all members of the Committee. My name is Claudia Jimenez-Hernandez, I am a single and proud mother of 3 daughters. My oldest daughter is 25 years old, she is blind from birth and is autistic. I am the only provider for my household.

I have a Cosmetology Manager License and also a License to operate my small business. In 2005 with dreams and significant sacrifice I was able to open my small beauty salon here in Minneapolis, and I have worked there since. My salon is the breadwinner for my family, I am a hard-working and responsible woman who pays taxes year after year.

Today I am asking for your help on behalf of all Minnesota hairstylists and small business owners. Unfortunately, current laws around Cosmetology, create many barriers resulting in people not being able to obtain their Cosmetology licenses, and it is also very difficult to find out when the laws change. When the inspectors show up at our salons, they give us very high fines and they do not want to collaborate with us. In the last 10 years I have paid more than \$18,000 in fines. My salon is on the verge of closing because I cannot find licensed staff to work because the process to obtain a Cosmetology license is very expensive and complicated. And since the pandemic, the expenses are more palpable and not having staff makes it more difficult to make ends meet.

One of my daughters wanted to help out in my salon while she was in college and looked into the cost of Cosmetology school, the cost is between \$15,000 to \$25,000 dollars, So she decided not to do it, because she was only going to cut hair, she did not want to do nails or any other service. I think that by removing barriers and separating the licenses so that there is one for just hair, we can help many single mothers like myself, but also many young people could benefit since it could become an alternative to pay for their studies and the state of MN would generate more jobs in different communities.

Again, I ask you to help us create alternatives and eliminate the barriers that exist to obtain a license to cut hair. I am here also in fear of retaliation from the Board of Cosmetology, but they themselves have told me that to make changes we have to go through the legislative process.

Thank you.