

February 23, 2016

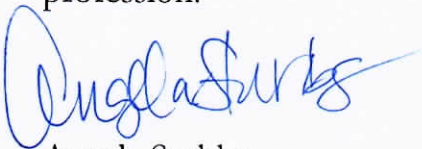
Dear Sen. McGuire, Rep. LeDoux, and members of the Alaska Legislature:

I am writing to state my full support of HB 289/SB 168. I am a shop owner and hair dresser in the state of Alaska, and I appreciate that in 2015, the Legislature passed a statute requiring manicurists to receive education and pass a state examination. This is definitely in the best interest of public safety.

With that said, the state of Alaska has nearly 1,000 licensed manicurists without Board representation. It is necessary that a licensed Nail Technician be added to the Board of Barbers and Hairdressers. This will not only give a voice to the large number of licensees who now have a professional industry, but it also gives the Board an odd numbered board, providing for tie-breaks votes.

Additionally, it seems absurd to me that the Board has 2 dedicated board seats to the barbering profession. As a hairdresser, I am 1 of 2,200 licensed Alaskan hairdressers, and we have only 2 board seats (one of which must also hold an esthetician's license). There are only approximately 150 licensed Barbers in the state of Alaska, many of whom are dully licensed with a hairdresser's license, as well. This heavy representation is unbalanced and unfair, skewing votes and making Board recruitment difficult.

I am also glad to see a piece of legislation that will not cost the state any money. I applaud this good legislation and thank you for your continued support of my profession.



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