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Reference: HB 131

Dear Representative Gattis,

I am writing this letter in **support** of HB 131. I recently learned that Alaska ranks last nationally for requirements to receive a nail technician license. Our state requires a 12 hour theory class that only covers sanitation, while all other states require anywhere from 100 to 700 hours of education plus a state board exam (which currently we do not have). This is a public health and safety issue, and the public is being misled.. The general public has no idea that in most cases the licensee under current standards has had no formal training on the service they are providing for a fee.

I personally have been negatively affected twice by nail technicians here in Anchorage. The first time occurred two years ago at Sassy's Nails on Huffman. I went in for a manicure. The man who did my manicure cut me and trimmed my cuticles back so far on a few fingers that they bled. My fingers were very painful for several days after. If I bumped my fingers they would start bleeding. Fortunately, I did not get an infection, but the practice of trimming cuticles so deeply can cause problems, such as infection and nail damage.

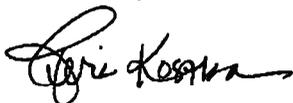
My second bad experience happened at Today's nails approximately one year ago at Today's Nails on Huffman. I went in to get a pedicure. The technician cut my toenails very short and on my big toes, he cut the nails very far back on the sides, even though I had asked him not to. Unfortunately, my big toes did get infected and ingrown. I had to undergo a small outpatient surgery to have the ingrown toenail removed.

Both of these processes caused me pain and time, but the frustrating thing is, they could have been avoided if the nail technicians were properly trained.

HB 131 would correct this by putting Alaska within the national standard and providing our public with qualified nail technicians. Alaskans deserve to have professional and safe service

Thank you Representative Gattis for sponsoring HB 131 and please let me know if you have any questions or if I can be of service or help in anyway.

Sincerely,



Teri L. Koskta