

Dear Senator :

As a Licensed Professional I am one of the more than **100,000** individuals working in salons that provide service to millions of Floridians each year. The education received prior to licensure is essential to success in the industry. Florida is one of the lowest in hours required in virtually all salon licensed practices in the country. If SB 1640 becomes law, the economic cost and risk to public safety will be devastating. **WE URGE YOU TO OPPOSE SB1640.**

- Barbers work with razors, blades and harsh chemicals
- Full Specialists/Nail Techs work to avoid fungus and infectious diseases.
- In Make Up application one must be acutely cognizant of skin contraindications.
- Skin Care specialists are often the 1st line of defense in identifying melanoma and other life threatening diseases and often deal with chemicals that can peel off layers of the skin.
- Students are trained to understand the risk of blood borne pathogens as well as proper sanitation and sterilization procedures.
- Students will **LOSE PELL GRANT funding** which they badly need for living expenses while attending school.

Graduates with the proposed hours will not have time to practice clinical hours on the public. Additionally, they will be unemployable as salon owners will not take the inherent risk when hiring an undertrained individual. Liability will skyrocket with a significant increase in lawsuits. The end result will be exorbitant insurance rates passed onto employers hurting these small businesses.

Less regulation has it's place, but not when it jeopardizes the public safety of most of the voters in your district, and adversely impacts many small businesses voters would be appalled to know SB 1640 will allow someone to perform services on them with this minimal level of training. We should consider increasing the training in the Full Specialist program to ensure the citizens of this state and the millions of visitors that visits salons in hotels are protected from potential harm by undertrained individuals.

The drafter of this bill believes it a job creator, in reality it is a job killer. I urge you on behalf of all salon professions and the millions of customers serviced in the salons to oppose this dangerous bill. Thank you and I'd respectfully ask for you to **OPPOSE SB 1640**

