

Testimony of Arif Karowalia of Perfect Brow Bar in Support of SB 348

February 2, 2022

Dear Chairman Hilderbrand and Members of the Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare:

My name is Arif Karowalia, and I manage the Perfect Brow Bar, a threading business with two locations in Kansas, one in Topeka and one in Wichita. Our business provides threading services to customers where we use only thread as a form of hair removal.

I ask that you please support SB 348. We have been in Kansas since 2012 and since then we have had to face problems with hiring experienced threaders with an Esthetician license. Threading is a very safe practice, but despite its safety, the state requires threaders to get an esthetician's license. This is problematic because Esthetician schools do not teach threading, and licensed estheticians therefore do not learn how to practice threading proficiently. In fact, most are unable to thread when we hire them and we have to spend time and money training them in the practice. To give you an example, from our Topeka location, the closest esthetician school is an hour away, along with the fact that it does not teach threading as a skill. The current regulatory framework leaves threading businesses in a very difficult position. We are unable to find qualified, licensed workers to staff our businesses and 95% of our business is threading based, so it gets very hard to cater to our customers with employees who do not have this skill. Yet, we are prohibited by law from hiring experienced threaders because they do not have a license. We also get fines and penalties from the board that only further decreases and damages our small business. We have faced numerous issues through the Board because of the Esthetician license requirements, including serious penalties, and the threat of criminal penalties, for employing people without a license. It is nearly impossible to comply with the current law, but if we do not comply, our business faces consequences that we cannot afford to address.

Threading businesses contribute to our communities. We provide jobs and our employees can earn a good living threading. This helps support working families in Kansas and build wealth. Our businesses also help our customers, who value our services. If the law does not change, threading businesses will continue to struggle to operate in Kansas, and I suspect many will not be able to succeed despite the popularity of the services we offer. Please support our business and threading entrepreneurs' freedom to use their skills and experience to earn a living.

I am happy to answer any questions the committee may have. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Arif Karowalia
Perfect Brow Bar
[Address in KS
Phone number
E-mail]