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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Testimony in Support of SB0629 - State Board of Cosmetologists - Membership -
Alteration**

Mr. Chair, Madame Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee:

SB0629 is a straightforward yet crucial bill that carries significant importance for Maryland estheticians and their clients. By way of background, estheticians are professionals who perform facials, apply makeup (including eyelash extensions and tinting), provide facial hair removal services, and offer consultations about skin care techniques.

By including an esthetician on the Cosmetology Board, this bill simply aims to ensure adequate representation of every affected profession. Maryland estheticians take great pride in their exceptional work quality and the valuable services they offer to their communities.

The State Board of Cosmetologists (within the Maryland Department of Labor) issues two full-service licenses (cosmetologist and senior cosmetologist) and four limited licenses (hairstylist, blow drying, nail technician, and esthetician). A cosmetologist or senior cosmetologist license authorizes the licensee to provide hair, nail, and esthetic services. (The other licenses authorize the licensee to provide just that service.) The board also registers apprentices. Applicants for licensure as a cosmetologist must pass a written and a practical examination and have successfully completed either a registered apprenticeship program or 1,500 hours of training at an approved cosmetology school.

This bill is essential for several reasons:

- Firstly, it provides a much-needed voice in the board's decision-making processes. Licensed estheticians bring a unique perspective derived from their extensive training and practical experience, which can greatly enrich the board's discussions and decisions.
- Secondly, having an esthetician on the cosmetology board helps to raise safety standards within the industry. With their specialized knowledge and expertise in skincare and beauty treatments, estheticians can offer valuable insights into developing regulations and guidelines that directly impact the well-being of professionals and consumers alike.

Currently, the Cosmetology Board consists of seven members: four cosmetologists, one school owner, and two consumer members. SB0629 would be a minor yet impactful change by replacing one of the consumer members with an esthetician. This adjustment holds the promise of promoting the integration of predominantly minority and women-owned professions into the board, while championing principles of diversity, representation, and community well-being. The Department of Labor supports this bill and submitted their letter of support to the committee.

Per the Fiscal Note, SB0629 would not result in additional state expenditures. For these reasons, I respectfully request a favorable report on SB0629.