

Hello,

I hope that this letter finds you well. Thank you in advance for hearing Senate Bill 180 Education, State Board of Cosmetologists Licensing Eyelash Extensions.

I'm writing this evening because I'd like to thank you for hearing this proposed bill and to introduce myself.

My name is CharityRochellé Flaskamp and I live and operate two successful fully licensed salons in Frederick Maryland. It has come to my attention that there is new legislation coming forward that may impact my business and many reputable businesses just like mine. I have been a fully licensed Operating Cosmetologist in the state of Maryland since 2003. I would like to contribute my years of hands-on experience, extensive training, and passion to help form legislation that will improve our industry here in Maryland, protect public health and safety and better serve our local clientele.

I have owned and operated several licensed salons over the last 20 years, currently, I have Blink Lash Studio and The Creative Studios. I started my career 22 years ago, in high school as a scheduler in a salon, and later in 2003, I earned my cosmetology license. I'm a huge advocate for normalizing sending our children to technical school as opposed to traditional university, as a lot of us are hands-on learners, and god knows, the world needs more dedicated craftsmen and women .

After moving to Frederick from Baltimore, I took a chance on myself, transitioning from being just a hairdresser and started Blink Lash Studio in 2015. After just two years, I was able to work for myself full-time. As a business owner, I am passionate about providing opportunities and proper training to my staff, which is why I require all of our artists to be licensed and to complete no less than two continuing education courses annually. This proves to be very expensive as we must travel to states that require licensing and regulate the lash industry, as good trainers won't come to Maryland due to there being no regulations.

The lash industry is unregulated in Maryland and this needs to change because, without oversight, the public is impacted by a lack of infection control which stems from using improper techniques and application practices. Not only will the public be impacted but the industry overall which is projected to grow \$2.31 billion by 2028, becomes extremely devalued without proper legislation.

For example because Maryland had dropped the ball when it came to this modality of cosmology, anyone here can call themselves a lash artist or trainer! This mean's terrible practices being passed down.

In providing lash extensions services we use sharp needle nose tweezers and an adhesive called Cyanoacrylate, a medical grade adhesive that can cause extreme allergies or even blindness if used improperly. Furthermore because there are so many unlicensed people providing lash services in Maryland and all the other states require licensing. Professional companies with fda approvals and extensive testing, will not sell their products to someone who is not licensed. This means the unlicensed "artists" are ordering their products and supplies for distributors in China! These products are unsafe and technically black market.

The eyes are the most sensitive organ on the body and applying lash extensions is extremely dangerous, especially in comparison to cutting and coloring hair (which I did full time for 15 years, prior to transitioning in lash services) or clipping a toenail. We need these regulations in a major way. Public safety is at risk. You need a cosmetology or esthetician background to understand the science and sanitation that goes into this intricate technique.

The Board of Cosmetology must create a standard of practice here, like every other state already has, so we can better our business practices, ensure safer customer experiences, and hopefully make the legislation for our industry in the state of Maryland the standard across the United States. Maryland is 1 of five states left to NOT regulate lash services.

Lash extension services are governed by the state board of cosmetology in every other state including, but not limited to Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Virginia, and even the District of Columbia. In the DMV, Maryland is the last to modernize and get on board.

We need to make this a priority as soon as possible. I thank you for your time and look forward to the possibility of meeting with you.

Sincerely,

Charity Flaskamp

Maryland Senior Cosmetologist