



March 7, 2024

TO: Representatives Jesse Sumner, Justin Ruffridge, Mike Prax, Dan Saddler, Stanley Wright, Ashley Carrick, and Zack Fields

CC: Senators Bill Wielechowski, Bert Stedman, Gary Stevens, Cathy Giessel, and Lyman Hoffman

RE: Comments on Senate Standing Committee Report 6

VIA EMAIL

Position: **Support**

Associated Skin Care Professionals, Associated Hair Professionals, and Associated Nail Professionals (the Associations) provide professional liability insurance, business resources, professional publications, and legislative and regulatory advocacy for more than 47,000 members nationwide.

The Associations are writing to express support for [Senate Standing Committee Report 6](#) (SSCR 6), which would disapprove [Executive Order No. 129](#) (EO 129) that aims to eliminate the Alaska Board of Barbers and Hairdressers (Board) and transfer its functions to the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development (DCCED). **The Associations believe the Board must be protected and remain independent, with autonomous administrative power to maintain effective and efficient barbering and cosmetology regulation.**

While we understand Governor Mike Dunleavy's reasoning behind EO 129 is to make state government as efficient and effective as possible, **eliminating the Board is inconsistent with the [2018 Board of Barbers and Hairdressers Sunset Review](#) performed by the DCCED.** The conclusion of the report states: "the board operated in the public's interest by effectively licensing the various occupations under the board's purview. The board monitored licensees and worked to ensure only qualified individuals practice in Alaska. [...] We recommend that the legislature extend the board's termination to June 30, 2027" (page 1). **If efficiency is the goal of EO 129, why eliminate a board that was determined to be effective after its most recent audit?**

The Associations believe independent boards are invested in the professions and communities they serve, strengthened and emboldened by the common interest to elevate their respective fields. The advantage of the Alaska Board of Barbers and Hairdressers is that it comprises professionals who represent the industry: barbers, hairdressers, estheticians, manicurists, and body piercers/tattooists/permanent cosmetic colorists. These individuals are experienced in their chosen profession, offer knowledgeable input, uphold best practices, and update regulations as needed. **If the Board is terminated, duties will be reallocated onto state staff who do not understand the barbering and cosmetology industry, creating confusion and backlogging the DCCED.** We question how transferring the Board's functions to the DCCED could possibly improve productivity and efficiency.

Independent boards are made up of peers entrusted with the duty to protect the best interests of their licensees. With this lack of oversight, the DCCED could increase licensing fees to offset additional administrative duties required to tackle surplus responsibilities. **Ceding financial control and decision-making to the DCCED would be a disservice to professionals, and administration efficiency would not improve.**

**EO 129 must be reversed.** The Alaska Board of Barbers and Hairdressers is successful by using best practices to regulate barbering and cosmetology to advance the industry and protect the public. **The Associations believe transferring functions to the Department of Commerce, Community, and**

**Economic Development would result in a loss of industry-specific knowledge, experience, and efficiency—the opposite intended action of the executive order.** The Associations fully support SSCR 6 for these reasons.

Thank you for considering our opinions. Please contact me at [lhostetter@pac.company](mailto:lhostetter@pac.company) if you have comments or questions.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L Hostetter". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "L" and "H".

Lance Hostetter, Government Relations Director  
Associated Skin Care Professionals  
Associated Hair Professionals  
Associated Nail Professionals