

Puff, Ron

Subject: FW: Talking points

Barbering started over 6,000 years ago. Barbering services were performed by Egyptian nobility. I say that to say, we have been a productive industry for ages. We are barbers, changing what we do or how one gets licensed to do what we do, rewrites the pages of history. Why the push to change us now?

If the concern is that it is a male dominated field, allow me to remind you that there are over 200,000 registered barbers and over half are women. We have been a diverse industry for decades. We welcome innovation but not changes to the fundamentals of who we are. Why would we want someone to perform an art, and barbering is an art, because they watched or just apprenticed under someone? We are master barbers, trained in a craft specializing from the shoulders up with strict sanitation guidelines. We can not bear witness to these old age practices being given away without thought. I say that to say this... if altering the very fibers of education is now a congressional decision, what is next? Will I apprentice under a neurosurgeon to perform brain surgery?

Currently LaBarberia Institution of Hair has 100 students enrolled in a curriculum that promises a unique field, that has been evolving for thousands of years and offers a promise of a reputable, lucrative field. An occupation that requires dedication and talent and hope of providing for themselves and their families. However, congress wants to vote to take that away? That is a lot of dreams to vote away.