

Dear Mendocino County Board of Supervisors,

Since COVID-19 started back in March, salons & spas have been only allowed to work between 4-6 weeks. This has caused a huge economic and financial burden on our businesses and families. During this forced shutdown, the majority of salon & spa owners have still had to pay rent to our landlords even though we cannot work. The average rent is \$500 a month per stylist for a small space. We have literally been throwing money away to try to keep our businesses open. This is money that could have been used to feed our families. Now, the unemployment has run dry and we have no end in sight. Ukiah has nearly 77 salons in the town. Each salon has multiple stylists and each one of those has had to face the choice to keep paying their business rent or close their doors. Why is this a choice we have to make? We are not the cause of the spread, our salons are the safest place a person can be. We have extensive training in sanitation and disinfection and understand how to handle communicable diseases. **THIS IS WHAT WE TRAINED FOR!** If people can stand in line (NOT SOCIAL DISTANCING) at walmart, Costco, Home Depot... then they should be able to see their esthetician, cosmetologist, nail artist or barber with masks and face shields.

The CDC released a notice that said that masks will stop the spread in a salon. So if the CDC says there is proof that masks work, then WHY doesn't Dr. Doohan and the BOS agree? Why are we still shutdown? Why are your choices causing us so much hardship? Do you truly not understand the businesses you are making decisions for? If so, all you need to do is talk to your local Salon Professionals and see for yourself.

Let's be logical here, if everyone is so concerned about the spread of Covid, then why is Mendocino, Point Arena and Fort Bragg slammed with tourism? I live in Fort Bragg and the amount of tourists flooding our streets is RIDICULOUS! I understand that tourism brings in the county money, but so do your small businesses. Shut down tourism, let your salons and spas go back to work and see what happens to the spread of Covid then. I guarantee you will see a huge decrease. The majority of tourists are from the Bay Area going from county to county "to get some fresh air and out of their cities". How do I know? I've asked them. Enough is enough, show some loyalty to your Mendocino County citizens and let us go back to work.

Please understand the financial disaster your choices are causing us. We deserve to work, we know how to be safe, we understand the severity of the disease and we are confident that all of the protocols we were told to adhere to will work. If masks work, why can't we?

I hope this letter makes some kind of a difference in your decisions but I won't hold my breath.

Sincerely,
Alycia Whitehead, Esthetician