

To Mendocino Boards of Supervisors:

I've been in the Cosmetology profession for 30 years this year. I have been a salon owner in Ukiah for over 10yrs now. I am a second income in our family, meaning we cannot get by on just 1 income and I am used to being able to work 40-60 hrs a week in order to make ends meet. What I am trying to convey to you is we need our industry to reopen.... we have built clientele through our skill and artistic trade. We are also very respected by our client base, in that, they trust us with more than just their hair. They trust us to improve their self esteem, we talk to kids that are having a hard time communicating with their parents and we cry with them when they get a divorce or lose a loved one. It is very important during these times that people are able to have an outlet for self-care and mental wellness.

To go into what we have done to implement safety and stop spread of Covid 19 is obviously becoming redundant to you so I will refrain. If the information we are receiving from you is correct, I would appreciate some sort of justification without a case coming out of this county from a salon. Instead you have chosen to "assume" we are a high risk and have shut us down. We were never given the chance for you to see how truly clean many salons are. I can understand in the beginning without any PPE requirements, but now let's give us the respect to work and save our businesses. If you are the ones telling us to "trust the science", yet we are actively using PPE and we are unemployed, then that is creating distrust in you... our elected officials.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I wish you all health and safety in our community...

Gina Baarts/ Owner of Bella Vita Salon