

Dear BOS or to whom it may concern..

Thank you for taking the time to hear from all of us.

I am a Salon owner here in Ukiah, Ca. I am a Licensed Cosmetologist. I also have 3 other women who rent stations in my salon. We are all licensed and trained in the state of California. With the board of cosmetology (State Board).

In my salon we take pride in strict sanitation (even before covid).

My salon is known for its clean atmosphere and professional service. We jumped through hoops to prep for the reopening and new guidelines! We spent money we do not have (not having a job) to prep to keep not only our clients but ourselves and each other safe!

Myself and the 3 others who work along side Of me are by appointment only. With that being said, at max, there is no more then 8 people in the salon at all times. Our stations are all more then 6 feet apart from one another. So that's not even reaching the max allowed people in one group, that is 10!

I took out the waiting room, the coffee and wine bar. We take temps at the door, and have them all sign weavers. Our clients are no longer allowed to bring a friend and enjoy their "girl time" they are no longer allowed to even bring their children. Yet they still are dying to get in. They need their time to self maintenance and to keep their mental health in check! Not everyone may agree, but self maintenance is a huge factor for mental health for women and some men, but mostly women. We need to feel good about ourselves and feel well kept together. It's a place where women can go to get a moment to themselves, and clear their minds. Vent to their stylist, etc!! (Stylist are like therapist, who don't make money for being a therapist lol) on top of being a glam squad!

During the first shut down it was all new and scary for us. We were told it would be a 3 week closure and it was 3 months. We had assistances from the state with unemployment and it helped. We no longer have that, And we are unable to work in our clean salons, (that i still have to pay rent for). We are being financially destroyed, and it's completely out of our control. It's unfair!

Walmart had 3 confirmed cases and DID NOT EVEN CLOSE . Why??? Why is that fair!

Every single person has a choice to enter a salon. They are making that appointment knowing the risk, yet we don't have to make a appointment to go to Costco or Home Depot! And those places have employees that are not state trained, TESTED, and LICENSED in sanitation. Anyone can work there!

Ukiah has roughly 70 salons and barber shops, give or take. With each salon having 3-7 employees (licensed stylist) that's a huge loss of income for the community. For locally owned businesses. For family's who have 1 income households. Etc... when the CDC has posted that masks DO WORK in a salon atmosphere! The CDC!!!!!! So why are we closed. Ukiah is a small community of locally owned businesses, the money that circulated through the salon industry also makes it way to all the other small town little boutiques etc to keep this little place thriving. We need each other! Desperately!!!

To tell us we can work outside, where anyone can walk by and touch stuff, cough, sneeze, anything, is not sanitary. The dust and germs makes it unsafe. It's literally impossible to safely

work on our clients. I feel we were given that option because deep down you knew we wouldn't do it, but you threw us a bone!

It's shocking to me that every other state has their salons open. But not California! Why? Ukiah is going to be in the same boat as willits in no time. If we don't get our shit together and do what's right for the people!!!

I personally know of 4 salons including my own that are almost to the breaking point of permanent closure. Having to come up with money for my own home rent and bills is stressful enough at this time, on top of coming up with rent and utilities for a business that's sitting closed. It's effecting my mental health, i feel useless and worthless. I'm depressed and constantly worried how I'm going to provide for my family. I have mouths to feed other then my own! Knowing that my livelihood is being controlled by a woman that doesn't even live here is infuriating! She has no clue what the the sanitation in a salon is. She needs to educate herself before she makes these decisions that's ruined this town for many many hard workers!

Thank you for your time,
Chelcy Gibbs