

Greetings Supervisors,

My name is Courtney Gupta and, once again, I am writing to you in regards to my business. I am a licensed Cosmetologist by the state of California of over 10 years. I am also self-employed. While I understand safety is of utmost importance currently, I also believe that cosmetologists & estheticians can, in fact, abide by all safety measures and still operate.

I want to know WHY we are unable to be open when we are not on the state watch list. Per our Governor AND our Health Officer we have been told ALL decisions would be Data Driven. Well, there isn't a single piece of data to drive this decision. People are allowed to gather in groups of 50, but I can't work on my single client? People can go to Walmart, Safeway, and Home Depot – spending an hour plus in each store – but my ONE client can't sit in my chair for 2 hours to get their hair done? In a place where I can pinpoint at any given day or time who was in my shop. Can Walmart, Safeway or Home Depot do that? No, they can't, not without a press release... which might I add – Walmart apparently hasn't done with their reported positive cases that are floating around. So please, please explain to me what sense this even makes? So many of these protocols make ZERO sense. We are consent giving adults, if people want to choose to go get their hair done, get a manicure, or a facial, they should be able to. If people are afraid to, they shouldn't. It's THAT simple. Stop treating us like children that you are sending to time out. If we're following the rules – no matter how ridiculous I may think they are – we should be allowed to operate.

Before all of this began, we were BARELY able to operate outside. Want to know why? Because it's unsanitary and we cannot control the environment. I am currently writing this letter while it's randomly pouring down rain, thundering, lightening, and super windy IN AUGUST. How am I to operate OUTSIDE in this weather? Oh, that's right, I'm expected to lose an entire day of income because it's too dangerous inside. What happens in the fall or winter? You are threatening an entire industry. Let's not forget about the impending PSPS we may face as well. We cannot survive shut down after shut down. I have spent thousands to make sure that myself and clients are always safe and sanitary. It's been 4 months exactly since the shut down, I expect better from our governments.

The California Board of Barbering & Cosmetology requires that all operators perform services with the highest of sanitation standards. We are required to sanitize any and all implements and workstations before and after each and every guest. We are required to keep the salons and spas clean and sanitized. Our sanitation solution company - Barbicide - which is used by all operators, has issued a statement that the EPA has approved its efficacy against the Human Coronavirus including COVID-19 (link: <https://barbicide.com/barbicide-statement-regarding-covid-19/>).

Because of the above stated, I believe that we should be reinstated immediately. We have followed every protocol implemented. Along with using Barbicide as required to keep our operational licenses, each salon/spa can implement the following to keep the curve flat, but also be able to keep our livelihoods:

- Masks on guests and operators.
- Sanitize stations and shampoo bowls before & after each client.
- Sanitize front desk and all door handles every 30-60min.

- No one allowed who's been sick in the last 2 weeks (fever, coughing, etc.)
- Only allow in clients who are being actively worked on.

I truly believe that as long as the above are followed, we can & should be able to operate. Again, I have worked in this industry for 10 years, I can assure you that we hold only the highest of cleanliness standards.

As a member of this industry and self-employed individual, I find it imperative that salons and spas are reinstated. Most of this industry is self-employed, in order to feed our families, pay our bills, and generally survive we need to work. We are not given Paid Time Off or Insurance Benefits. Unemployment isn't helping much either. If people haven't already run out, then we are getting the minimum because Congress couldn't agree long enough to take care of the people.

As a community member, I have served as the former President of the Board on the Ukiah Main Street Program and former Secretary/Treasurer of the new Greater UKIAH Business and Tourism Alliance. The vitality of our small businesses is crucial at this time. Continuing to extend the Shelter in Place orders and not allowing businesses to operate will be the financial downfall to our small business economic structure. I understand taking safety into the highest consideration, but there are plenty of businesses operating at a MUCH lower sanitation standard than I am required. It's time we start opening up commerce again before we face another recession.

Supervisors, I ask you to please immediately reinstate the Salon/Spa industry immediately. I have outlined above a strategy to keep ourselves and our guests safe and capable of keeping the curve flat. Take care of your people.

With respect,

Courtney Gupta

Stylist, Ukiah