

Chairperson Landwehr and committee members,

My name is Len Melvin, I am one of the school owners of Hays Academy of Hair Design with campuses located in Hays and Salina, Kansas.

First, I want to thank all of you for the opportunity to present to you my concerns on SB 348.

I am opposed to Senate Bill 348 for many reasons. Hair removal should be regulated by our state as this service is one of the higher risks for consumers in the beauty profession. I am aware that there are deregulation efforts in some states related to our industry. It is important in the state of Kansas that we think through these issues and have conversations like we are having today on the importance of our statutes and regulations that govern these services and why they are in place to ensure consumers are well protected and safe from harm.

There may be confusion on what the service is about and why it is important that there is training involved for hair removal and why individuals providing these services need to be properly trained in infection control and client protection. Hair removal is just one type of service that professional training is provided for in our current requirements and threading is just one of the services utilized for hair removal. To clear up the confusion I wanted to share that hair removal and infection control is provided in the state curriculum to ensure that all services under our cosmetology act are required to include client protection and infection control protocols.

It is important to ask why is this particular service being exempted? Is it because individuals do not want to go through the trouble of taking the proper steps to be properly trained and licensed? Why? If we are serious about properly regulating beauty services to protect those receiving services I ask this committee to not exempt this service and listen to the licensed practitioners who oppose this exemption. In the state of Kansas we have over 26,000 licensed professionals who take their career seriously and want to be properly trained and licensed so every client that enters their establishment can feel confident that the individual providing their services are properly trained and licensed.

As the beauty industry continues to evolve there will be more services like threading that will grow in popularity and we as a state need to ensure that individuals that provide human touch services are following our state guidelines. Licensure in this area ensures that those providing services are trained in a state approved curriculum and properly tested for competency. Imagine if this bill were to pass we would have individuals providing services to the public without proper training AND oversight. These individuals would not be subject to inspection and their facilities would not be required to have state inspector audits. How safe would our Kansas consumers feel? How safe would they be?

If you go online and research this topic you will see many articles related to the infection problems caused by this particular hair removal service. One article from the National Library

of Medicine stated several issues. I have provided you a piece from this article below to allow you time to read and review. This service is not a procedure for hair removal that needs less oversight, it actually should have more.

I want to again thank this committee for hearing my concerns and the concerns of others speaking today. I hope you listen to these concerns and make the decision to not move forward with this exemption bill.

Article for your review.

Eyebrow threading: a popular hair-removal procedure and its seldom-discussed complications

[S B Verma](#) ¹

Affiliations

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Abstract

Removal of eyebrow and facial hair by 'threading' has gained popularity worldwide. Threading is an ancient Eastern method of removing unwanted facial and eyebrow hair by a technique whereby one end of a cotton thread is held in the mouth of the technician and the other end looped around individual hair shafts, which are then pulled out. This is repeated in quick, successive movements. In India, this is used extensively for shaping and removing eyebrow hair. Threading now enjoys immense popularity with women worldwide, irrespective of race or colour, and is an accepted method for removing eyebrow hair and shaping the eyebrows. However, this popular cosmetic procedure has some significant dermatological side-effects and is not familiar to many dermatologists. To our knowledge, this is the first report of verrucae occurring in threaded eyebrows. Other complications include erythema, folliculitis, pseudofolliculitis, hyperpigmentation, and depigmentation, including koebnerization of vitiligo. This report should alert dermatologists to the possible complications that may arise from this popular aesthetic epilatory procedure.

I am also including a link to a recent issue in Colorado. This is certainly not the first time this has come up, and I would venture to bet not the last. Licensed individual have a responsibility to the public to provides services done in a safe environment.