

Dear Members of the House Health and Human Services Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 5351 and to highlight the invaluable role that licensed aestheticians play in the lives of those struggling with chronic skin conditions, particularly in relation to mental health.

For years, I suffered from severe rosacea, a condition that not only affected my physical appearance but also took a significant toll on my mental well-being. The constant redness, irritation, and flare-ups left me feeling hopeless, frustrated, and withdrawn from social interactions. I had reached a dead end—until I met Mary Polizzi, a dedicated and highly skilled licensed aesthetician.

Mary did more than just treat my skin. She gave me hope. In her practice, she provided personalized care, working closely with me to identify triggers, recommend treatments, and develop a skincare routine that ultimately led me into remission. But her impact extended far beyond the treatment room. Mary guided me outside of appointments, educating me on lifestyle changes and offering ongoing support that empowered me to take control of my condition.

Most importantly, Mary's care had a profound effect on my mental health. As my skin improved, so did my confidence, my social interactions, and my overall well-being. I no longer felt trapped by my condition. Instead, I felt seen, heard, and supported by a professional who understood both the physical and emotional struggles of rosacea.

House Bill 5351 is crucial because it acknowledges the essential role that licensed aestheticians play in comprehensive health care. These professionals are not just providing cosmetic treatments—they are changing lives. Many individuals suffering from skin conditions experience anxiety, depression, and low self-esteem. Aestheticians like Mary Polizzi bridge the gap between dermatological care and emotional well-being, offering guidance that traditional medical settings often overlook.

I urge you to support House Bill 5351 and recognize the significant contributions of licensed aestheticians in Rhode Island. Their work is more than skin deep—it is life-changing.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Bret Abreu