

Dear Members of the House Health and Human Services Committee,

I am writing to you today to express my concerns and opposition to Rhode Island House Bill 5351. As someone who has personally experienced the positive impact of a licensed aesthetician's expertise and care, I believe this bill could unintentionally harm individuals like me who depend on skilled professionals to address both the physical and mental aspects of complex skin conditions. Unlike a physician, PA, or APRN, who may focus primarily on the physical symptoms, licensed aestheticians—who have dedicated their careers to understanding and managing these conditions—are able to offer the guidance and support needed to address both the physical treatment and the mental health challenges that often accompany them.

Several years ago, I was struggling with severe rosacea, a condition that not only affected my physical appearance but also took a significant toll on my mental health. My self-esteem was at an all-time low, and the constant flare-ups led to feelings of anxiety and depression. At the time, I felt as though I had reached a dead-end in terms of finding a solution that would bring me relief.

That was until I met Mary Polizzi, a licensed aesthetician who truly changed my life. Mary worked closely with me through a customized skincare plan that focused on treating my rosacea in a holistic manner, both in-office and through guidance and recommendations outside of our sessions. Her dedication, expertise, and compassion were evident from the start, and it was through her care that I began to experience relief, not only from the physical symptoms of rosacea but also from the emotional weight it had placed on me.

Mary helped me regain my confidence, allowing me to feel comfortable in social settings again and giving me the tools to manage my condition in ways that had not been possible before. I will forever be grateful for her support, as it allowed me to take control of my health and mental well-being.

As I reflect on my journey, I continue to be amazed at the transformation in both my appearance and, more importantly, my mental health. I no longer suffer from the same level of anxiety or depression that I once did, and I credit much of that to the care and guidance I received from Mary. I am now able to live my life with a renewed sense of self-assurance, and I feel truly supported in managing my rosacea.

Aesthetic professionals, such as Mary Polizzi, who work within their scope of practice and focus on overall well-being, deserve to continue offering the care that has been so pivotal in my recovery and mental health. I am concerned that House Bill 5351 could create barriers for professionals like Mary who are integral to my journey and the journeys of so many others. While I understand that the bill aims to regulate safety within medical aesthetics, it could place unnecessary restrictions on licensed aestheticians, who have dedicated their lives to this field. Thank you for considering my perspective on this important issue. I hope you will consider the positive impact that qualified aestheticians have had on the lives of many Rhode Islanders and revise the bill accordingly to support both safety and access to care.