

My name is Shavonne Bailes. I served in the United States Marine Corps and was honorably discharged 6 months ago before moving to Las Vegas with my wife and son. I've been a student at Expertise Barber & Cosmetology Institute since October 2019. I'm writing this statement because I care about the barber industry and I want to do whatever I can to help the barber community here. Im also writing this because many of my peers feel that nothing will change and fear being punished by the Barber Board for speaking out.

The Barber Board facility located at 4710 E. Flamingo is a barbershop that is outdated and unprofessional in appearance. When you visit the barber board you are rarely acknowledged when you walk in the door. If Ms. Antinette is servicing a client you must wait for her to finish her haircut before she speaks to you. I have called the barber board nearly 10 times and I don't believe I have ever gotten an answer the first time. I'm always forced to leave a voicemail and it could take a day or 2 for Ms. Antinette to call you back. My concern and my opinion is that the duties of the barber board comes secondary to the board members' clients and their primary job which is cutting hair or practicing barbering. We should have people dedicated to servicing licensed barbers and those trying to obtain a license, especially when these individuals are being paid \$150 per working day.

None of the barber schools in Nevada accept GI Bill benefits. I'm not sure any of them have financial aid at all. Which means you are either paying out of pocket \$15-20k or going through a state agency to pay. Even the state agencies are limited with the funds they have. So, I'm currently missing out on nearly \$1600 a month from my VA benefits simply because the barber schools are choosing NOT to do it. Expertise Barber & Cosmetology Institute is the only school that has shown interest in getting financial aid.

In order to own a barbershop in Nevada or to rent a private suite you have to be a master barber/licensed barber. In order to be a master barber you have to first attend a school for 1500 hours, pass the written and practical a month or two after that, work in a barbershop under a master barber for 18 months, take the SAME test again, then go through the process and paperwork process to open a barbershop or get a private suite. The board is putting us under the supervision of a master barber but there is no regulation of these master barbers. What are we expected to GAIN from being required to work under a master barber for 18 months? Cosmetologists are not required to do this. Why do we have to wait 2-4 months to take the barber exam? We should be able to take the test as often as the board is able. If they aren't able to do a test weekly then why can't they if there is a demand for barbers? What is preventing them from doing so? Why are we taking the same exact test twice? We should be able to obtain a license after finishing school and operate as an independent barber in the community.

Along with the concern of the Barber Board deliberately making it hard for ANY member of this community to obtain a license, I believe the proper individuals should look into the Barber Board's discrimination of felons and/or those with a criminal record. If it's hard for myself to obtain a license and be in a position to open a barbershop then its 10 times harder for a felon. If a person has done their time then we should give them every resource to become a contributing member of society. The Barber Board shouldn't be used as a probation board. There are students that are being forced to take urine tests and do things outside of the law to "prove" that they should be given the privilege of even attending school. That is counterproductive for everyone in our community.

The Barber Board has shown little to no interest in creating a program for barber instructors. There are only 12 barber instructors across the entire state. By limiting the number of barber instructors we have you limit the number of students that can be in school at a time. The law limits each instructor to approximately 20 students. That means only 240 students are able to attend school at a time in the entire state of Nevada. There are over 3 million people in the state. This alone shows the great demand for more barbers. The 1,532 barbers currently in the state cannot serve the population.

The Barber Board's purpose is to protect the safety and welfare of the public. Their inability to provide efficient customer service, combined with the popularity of YouTube and social media, is the direct result of there being more illegal barbers now than there have ever been. When you block someone from legally following their passion... they're going to do it anyway. You directly force people to continue to practice barbering in their homes and prevent them from getting the education they need. This in turn causes more infection and disease amongst the community. We should be giving everyone interested the proper resources and encouraging everyone to get an education if they want to practice barbering. By creating obstacles we cause more harm.