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State of Louisiana

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL P.O. BOX 94005 BATON ROUGE 70804-9005

May 4, 2020

Governor John Bel Edwards Post Office Box 94004 Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Dear Governor Edwards.

Thank you for your continued cooperation throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. By working together, we have slowed the spread of the coronavirus and made Louisiana safer.

As I did last week with Churches and Houses of Worship, I write today to encourage you consider re-opening another service for our State's people. My request comes after substantive discussions about employee and customer safety with leadership of the Louisiana Board of Cosmetology and with small business owners in the industry.

I do not make this petition lightly. We have thousands of licensed cosmetologists in our State. These are real people with real families and real problems. Many are independent contractors who have no other source of income and are struggling to make ends meet. They not only want to serve their clients, but they also need to work in order to put food on their tables and provide for their children.

While some customers may be wary of getting too close to their providers, others certainly have the desire to receive service. In countless conversations with hair salon and barber shop owners, I have repeatedly heard how Louisiana consumers are inundating them with requests for assistance. Whether to improve personal hygiene or boost mental psyche during these challenging times, the demand side is real; but the supply side has been completely shut off by 33 JBE 2020.

So today, I urge you to amend your Proclamation and allow this industry to re-open with common-sense and reasonable guidelines that preserve public health and the welfare of our State's people.

Thank you very much for your utmost consideration.

For Louisiana

Attorney General