

Greetings and Salutations;
From the board of Directors, of
The Alliance of Professional Tattooists

Dear Governor:

Whereas;

Covid-19 has changed the everyday lives of all Americans in ways unforeseen just a few short months ago, and will most assuredly not be resolved completely in the immediate future, thereby necessitating more of a long game strategy.

The APT is a not for profit Business League that represents the independent practitioners and business owners of the Tattoo Trade since 1992. As you know the Tattoo Trade is regulated by state and local laws, rules and regulations.

Our Trade Association has been proactive in the continuing development of standards and best practices of our Trade, resulting in most of our work being adopted as the basis for safe procedures, legislation and oversight by Health Departments across the United States. Our organization shares and exceeds the states' concerns for public health and safety in the Tattoo Trade. Earlier this year, Governors across this country were faced with the prospect of a new infectious virus working its way through the population; a virus proven to be transmitted by direct contact, indirect contact, and airborne transmission. A virus that makes no distinction between man, woman, or child. A virus that makes no distinction between socioeconomic classes, trades, or professions. The Governors across this nation wisely leaned on the scientific community for guidance in their deliberations and ultimately issued emergency orders pursuant to combating this new infectious disease.

Whereas;

After serious deliberations the scientific community identified a course of action, resulting in a series of suggestions to safeguard the population and therefore slow the spread of infections. The Governors of most states embraced a stop work order and a stay at home directive in order to allow hospitals to recover from the surge of infections, free up ICU rooms, effectively procure medical equipment, and recover from a shortage of PPE.

Our organization endorsed those actions; many in our Trade suspended their services to the public even before the Governors stay at home orders, and the APT worked diligently to encourage both compliance with those orders, and a Trade initiative to donate unused medical supplies and PPE in our collective possession to local hospitals in desperate need.

Whereas;

The stop work orders, and stay at home directives only applied to a portion of the population, with many workers and trades being deemed “essential” even though those workers and trades grievously undermined the very essence of the scientific community’s suggestions for slowing the spread of Covid-19.

Whereas;

The lifting of the stop work orders and the stay at home directives were implemented in phases in most states, the APT and the independent practitioners of the Tattoo Trade perceived immediately an unwarranted prejudice and/or bias of our trade. As other trades posing proportionally greater risks were allowed to reopen in earlier phases than our Trade, with absolutely no discernible rationale.

When our practitioners in many localities would question this obvious bias, more often than not we were not even dignified with a response to our petition for a redress of grievances, the Board of Directors of this Professional Business League found these circumstances, not only unacceptable but blatantly unconstitutional.

Now comes the State of California;

After the Governor’s emergency orders closed the tattoo shops across the state for roughly three months earlier this year, tattoo businesses were allowed to resume services with “additional considerations” above and beyond normally regulated best practices, which included;

“Suspend piercing and tattooing services for the mouth/nose area.”

“Chairs should be arranged to ensure at least six feet of space between customers. Establishments should consider additional divider shields or other impermeable barriers where appropriate.”

“Workers should provide tattooing services for only one customer at a time.”

The Tattoo establishments in California complied with these directives, in some instances at increased business expense, only to be blindsided in some areas by a new stop work order approximately fourteen days later, again for no discernible statistically backed reason. Admittedly, CV-19 infections may have risen again in some areas, but did so without any contact tracing linking it to tattooing in any way, shape, or form. The Alliance of Professional Tattooists has worked directly

with AFDO and the BAEA to formulate BEST PRACTICES to facilitate our Trades' resumption of services. Our Trade is leading the way in safely reopening businesses across the whole country. To be shut down again, arbitrarily, after fourteen days in California is scandalous and without merit.

Each week nearly two hundred sixty five MILLION customers visit Walmart, that's thirty seven MILLION a day nationwide, yet the potential exposure from these types of businesses are deemed regrettably acceptable, and labeled "essential." Arguably, tattooing services are not "essential" to the public in any way, but the livelihood of the thousands of artists working this trade in California, it is certainly "essential" to them.

Resolved;

The Alliance of Professional Tattooists humbly requests that the Governors across the United States of America

STOP AND DESIST;

The unwarranted arbitrary discrimination against our trade as it applies to Covid-19 stop work orders.

Accept and admit, the existence or truth that:

One personal service worker, working alone with one client, in an "by appointment only" situation, observing the best practices, rules, and regulations set forth by law, and subject to oversight by local authorities, poses the absolute lowest perceived risk of disease transmission to both themselves and the public that they serve. And the risk to public safety is negligible when compared to other trades and/or businesses.

Allow our well-regulated and professionally represented trade to continue to work, and to work through the issues pertaining to our trade, with the well-established oversight authorities that we have worked with, shared responsibility with, and experienced no discernible problems with, for decades.