



Representative Keith Kidwell

North Carolina House of Representatives

79th District

For Immediate Release

May 13, 2020

For Additional Information Contact

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Re: Press Conference re Lawsuit against Governor Roy Cooper

Media Advisory

Representative Keith Kidwell announces a lawsuit by Hair is Essential Association. An organization of North Carolina beauticians, barbers, and cosmetologists. Everyone in North Carolina who is in the personal grooming business has been out of work for nearly two months. Some are getting a small amount of replacement income from unemployment, and many are still stuck in the unemployment application process. More important, as stated in the attached letter, all not working because the governor closed them down. Three days ago, a business owner in Pitt County contacted me as asked if I could find an organization to file suit against the governor to reopen the personal grooming shops. He pledged \$5000.00 of seed money to get the ball rolling. In just a few days through FaceBook and friends, we have put together; Hair is Essential Association to file a suit to get the businesses reopened.

Personal grooming professionals are specifically trained in how to identify when someone is sick, and how to sanitize their businesses. Very few would have any problem meeting the social distancing standards. So there is no reason for the statewide shutdown of their businesses.

The attached letter was mailed to Governor Roy Cooper today, putting him on notice that if he does not allow the beauty shops and barbers to reopen by May 18 a lawsuit will be filed.

North Carolinians have the right under the constitution to operate their businesses. Attorney Chuck Kitchen has agreed to file the suit to force the reopening of these businesses, as you can see the demand letter he has done his homework and stands on firm legal ground.