



Contact:
Cathy Calliotte
Vice President, Marketing and Communications
202-452-1525 x107
cathy@pijac.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 19, 2012

Pet Groomer Bill: Bad for Pet Safety, Bad for Business *Bill Places Unnecessary Burden on Women-Owned, Small Businesses*

WASHINGTON – A voluntary pet groomer certification program has been proposed by California lawmakers in an attempt to regulate an industry with existing expert-developed training and certification programs. Senate Bill 969 (SB969) was drafted without consulting grooming experts such as the [National Dog Groomers Association \(NDGA\)](#) and [International Professional Groomers](#), both of which offer training, certification, and continuous education programs.

“This proposed program gives consumers the false impression that their pets will be safer with a state-sanctioned groomer,” said Mike Canning, president and CEO of the Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council (PIJAC). “This bill does nothing to establish standards of care for the protection of animals and only burdens businesses throughout California.”

Groomers from small and large businesses across California are concerned that this voluntary certification program does not establish the proper standards of care to support pet safety. Also under SB969, groomers who have professional certifications from national organizations like the NDGA would not be able to advertise these certifications. In addition, the proposed certification program would be overseen by a non-profit council, whose members may not necessarily have expertise in pet grooming, safety, and standards of care.

Of the estimated 10,000 groomers in California, the majority are employed by small businesses, many of which are women-owned. According to the [U.S. Census](#), employment in the pet care services industry has grown by as much as 52% over five years. The restrictions, liability and resource constraints that would be imposed on groomers as a result of SB969 could result in a decline in sales and in the number of these small businesses, adding to California’s nearly 11% unemployment rate*.

“The pet care industry strongly supports legislation that protects pets. Unfortunately, this bill doesn’t,” added Canning. “We look forward to working with the legislature to craft a bill that would actually be good for pets, good for business, and good for California as a whole.”

*Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, May and June 2012

###

The Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council (PIJAC) is a non-profit association serving pets, pet owners, and the pet industry. Our mission promotes animal welfare and pet care, champion responsible pet ownership, foster environmental stewardship, and protect the right to own a pet. PIJAC continuously raises the standards of animal care excellence through effective legislation and educational programs, and promotes responsible pet ownership for all types of pets.

PET INDUSTRY JOINT ADVISORY COUNCIL

1146 19th Street, N.W., Suite 350 / Washington, D.C. 20036 / 202-452-1525 / www.pijac.org / info@pijac.org