

## **Rep. Theresa Manzella's response to Janet Bierer's complaint**

My post was originally intended to be a light hearted plea for help, as my nail lady had just canceled my appointment due to Covid-19. As the conversation progressed, I learned that licensed cosmetologists are forbidden from offering their service in homes. I was surprised and unaware of that, so at that point the conversation became more about understanding "why?" What do shut-in do when they need their hair and nails done? My interest turned from needing my nails done, to garnering a better understanding of the industry with the hope of helping the girls get back to work. Obviously, Janet perceived my interest as an insult. That was not the intent and I'm sorry she took it that way.

After being told that home visits were illegal, I edited the post to read "unlicensed" because I wouldn't want a licensed professional to compromise her practice in any way. That said, I found it unsettling that the ladies thought that the Board of Cosmetology held authority over what goes on under my roof. I certainly hope I'm not considered a criminal for cutting my husbands hair, but that's the way Janets complaint reads. If I want to "stay at home" and invite a trusted friend over to do my nails, it is well within my rights to do so. And it is the right of the friend to accept or decline the invitation. I find it quite ridiculous to think that I would be expected to know all the occupational rules associated with any profession other than my own.

The thread did produce a solution as multiple people offered Color Street Nails as an alternative to a professional salon job. I'll try them. Problem solved. Thank you FB Friends. Moving on. How do we get Montana safely back to work?

Sadly, there are many people who are living in fear due to Covid-19; fear for their health, fear for their livelihoods, and fear of their government, and they seem more easily triggered because of it. I choose faith, judgment to mitigate the risks, and personal responsibility over fear.

Janet came to the thread quite some time after the initial discussion had ended. Had she engaged me in conversation, I would have been happy to civilly discuss the Governors directive, as well as the role of the County Health Board, the County Sheriff, and that of the DPHHS. We might have discussed the differences between state laws that apply to everyone, and occupational administrative rules that she's referenced in her complaint and levied against me that actually apply to her conduct as a professional; not mine as a citizen. We may have even discussed the Constitution and Bill of Rights. I might have been able to alleviate some of her concerns, found some common ground, or we could have civilly agreed to disagree. But instead, she made multiple, rapid, derogatory, foul mouthed comments; none of which I responded to on my page. She took portions of the post to her own pages where she spearheaded a hate campaign, which is still on going. I made one stupid comment on her page, which I do regret, and blocked her from my page, as it became vividly apparent no good would come from any discussion at that time. I was caught off guard by the vitriol and it certainly was NOT one of my finer moments.

I harbor no ill will and I wish her well. I'm sorry my post hurt her feelings and caused such a visceral response.

This is still the United States of America and I have all of the God given, individual inalienable rights I was blessed with at birth, despite the temporary inconvenience of Covid-19.

I think it's important that we get Montana back to work so that everyone can make more productive use of their time. If the shutdown continues, on line courses in governmental civics and a study of the State and Federal Constitutions might be a productive way to fill some time.

Sincerely,  
Rep Theresa Manzella