

**Kate Brown**  
Governor



**Oregon Commission on Black Affairs**  
"Advocating Equality and Diversity"  
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Testimony in support of SB 422  
House Committee on Business and Labor  
April 15, 2019

Chair Barker, Vice Chairs Barreto and Bynum, and members of the committee:

Addressing disparities in access to services supporting wellbeing for communities of color and women is a strategic priority of the Oregon Advocacy Commissions. Throughout Oregon, communities of color are filled with family and local experts who regularly coif the hair of friends, family members and neighbors as part of the rich heritage of tradition and beauty we enjoy statewide. The OCBA takes great pride in supporting the cultural importance of Afro-centric hair, styling, caring practices and amazing history that resonates in many local communities (employment, small independent business, cultural community centers, etc.).

We believe that expanding the definition of "natural hair care" to include shampooing and conditioning is an important addition to the practice of natural hair care in Oregon, and within the Board of Cosmetology and Oregon Health Licensing Agency. It provides the right balance of professionalism and regulation while supporting the time honored traditions of the coif in diverse communities statewide.

The Oregon Commission on Black Affairs, and supported through the Advocacy Commissions, ask you to positively consider SB 422 with your vote.

Sincerely,

Jamal T. Fox, Chair

**OR Commission on Black Affairs**

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