



Testimony: SB 217
January 26, 2023

To Chair Dembrow, Vice-Chair Weber, and members of the Senate Education Committee:

Under HECC's current oversight of cosmetology curriculum, Oregon has been a trailblazer in creating a formula to determine cosmetology hours for theory and hands-on education. This was the backbone for the reduction in hours from 2300 to 1835 with strong reasoning and facts behind this change. This work spanned several years and was a huge success for our state and students. As other states fight to keep cosmetology a regulated industry, this has been something we can stand behind.

Shifting oversight of cosmetology curriculum from HECC and the Dept of Ed to Oregon's Health Licensing Office risks losing sight of the progress we've made toward a curriculum and hours structure backed by so much time and research.

As a school, our instructor training focuses on principles of teaching and education far beyond technical training hair and skin. We are an education facility first, not a salon. Our curriculum drives licensing, not the other way around. HLO should be able to write licensing questions from the defined topics in the curriculum, utilizing the authorized textbooks instead of changing this whole process around. If a change needs to be made, it should first go to curriculum, ensuring that it goes through the formula for theory and hands-on, then get updated on the licensure exam.

HLO has advocated for this change because of feedback to update the licensure exam and is under the assumption the whole curriculum should be moved over to HLO to fix this problem. To erase years of work by the Department of Ed and a committee of cosmetology instructors, operators and school owners and then start from scratch with the Board of Cosmetology that does not include board members with a background in education is a step backwards for our students and our industry.

Thank you for hearing different viewpoints on this bill.

Sincerely,

Ray Motameni

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