

Summary of the Problem:

Currently in Oregon there are two educational models to graduate students in the fields of hair design, barbering, esthetics and nail technology.

- (a) Minimum Hourly Training - This Educational model requires students to meet specific hourly minimums to become trained and licensed. Average cost \$15,000 - \$30,000.
- (b) Proficiency Based Training - This Educational model requires written standards approved by the commission to test and educate individuals with prior cosmetology experience to more quickly move into the workforce. Average cost \$2,000-\$15,000

After completing either of these programs all individuals are held to the same State testing standards before receiving licensing and moving into the workforce.

Currently in Oregon there are thousands of unlicensed laborers working under the table in beauty salons across the State. Approximately 70% of the workforce in this industry are immigrants often coming from other countries or moving across state lines. Although they are unlicensed they are not necessarily unskilled. In many cases the Hourly Training models require time and financial commitments that are prohibitive and in many cases unneeded. If individuals are coming from another state or another country the Proficiency model can vigorously assess the students current skill level and provide the education to bring them up to the level required to pass the state regulations. Proficiency based education models provide individuals with a fast track into the workforce without requiring redundant hourly minimums. The goal that we have in common and my passion and life work is to get skilled, licensed laborers out into the workforce. (See Exhibits and attached letter from Representative Barbara Smith Warner).

Proficiency based schools have a history of being misunderstood and have felt threatened in the past of being delegitimized. There are examples of where Proficiency based schools have been misunderstood and left vulnerable. (See Exhibit B)

Proposed Solution to the Problem:

Proposal for a new legislative concept, Amendment of House Bill 2314 or Opposition for Senate Bill 74

We need to bridge the gap between those regulating (HECC - Higher Education Coordinating Commission and HLO - Oregon Health Licensing Agency) and schools like ours that have graduated over 20,000 students in the last 25 years. I propose that we have an administrative collaboration between Proficiency based schools and the Oregon Cosmetology Board (which currently is within the Oregon Health Licensing Agency).

Non-collaborative regulation can leave room for vague and arbitrary decision making, costing citizens' livelihoods and their inability to have a career and become tax payers.

Thank you for your time and consideration for this legislative concept. Please contact me for further questions.

Sincerely,

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