

**COURTNEY NERON**  
**STATE REPRESENTATIVE**  
**DISTRICT 26**



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**Testimony in Support of [HB 3066](#)**

March 13, 2025

Chair Hudson, Vice-chair Fragala, Vice-chair Harbick, and members of the Committee on Higher Education and Workforce Development,

Thank you for reading my testimony (and supporting anonymous testimony at the end of this letter) in support of House Bill 3066. It is a very important bill that provides skills, and hope, to my constituents inside Coffee Creek Correctional Facility (CCCF). This bill will **restore funding for one of the educational opportunities at Coffee Creek, the Advanced Esthetics Program**, an initiative that had a successful launch prior to COVID. This program provides industry-standard training and certification in advanced esthetics for adults in custody (AICs).

This program, originally developed in partnership with Portland Community College (PCC) and the Oregon Department of Corrections (DOC), equips participants with skills in laser tattoo removal, scar reduction, hair removal, skin rejuvenation, and other high-demand esthetic procedures. With a certification that offers a wage potential of \$50,000 and up, this program creates a meaningful pathway to employment and a stable future. I am especially focused on the tattoo removal skill-building component of this program. Inside Coffee Creek, these services can be offered to women who have been marked from human trafficking. **Tattoo removal can mean a fresh start and a safer transition back into their community for those who carry abusers' names, antisocial, or gang-related tattoos.**

The Advanced Esthetics Program was originally established in 2017 and successfully trained multiple AICs, certifying four individuals before it was suspended due to COVID-19 and DOC funding limitations in 2022. Importantly, the necessary infrastructure—including instructional space, some equipment, and an approved Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between DOC, PCC, the Oregon Health

Licensing Authority (HLO), and the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC)—remains intact. This bill directs funding to ensure the final pieces are in place to reinstate this educational pathway and provide critically needed tattoo removal opportunities. **The bill will ensure the funding to replace the needed machine, and a 0.5 FTE staff member to support the program.**

Yesterday, I sat with some of the advocates from the Family Preservation Project during their day of empathy. We discussed various bills and investments that will help those who are parenting while incarcerated and those who are actively working to build skills and **prepare for a clean, productive post-incarceration life**. They expressed strong support for this bill and shared stories. They expressed hope that tattoo removal could be provided for free for women with trafficking tattoos and shared that tattoo removal can change the trajectory of a woman's life.

One mother described that her **abuser forced her to get tattoos with his name in multiple places**. Being branded as "belonging to him" was a reminder throughout her incarceration. She had heard talk of having a tattoo removal program at the prison to help women erase the traumatic brandings, but it didn't come to fruition until after her release. Later on she needed to wear certain clothing and cover her brandings with makeup after she was released so that his name didn't show in public and risk her abusers getting their hands on her again. As soon as she could afford it, she When he was released from prison was when she had his name covered up with another tattoo so that it was no longer visible. She advocates for the program to be free for women in Coffee Creek. Her full testimony is below.

**I urge your support for this bill to restore funding to the Advanced Esthetics Program and reinstate this life-changing program.** Thank you

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Courtney Neron". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

My intentionally anonymous constituent shared the following story and wanted me to share it with the committee:

***“Goodmorning, I served well over 10 years at Coffee Creek Correctional Facility. The ultimate reason for my incarceration was severe Domestic violence/Abuse and sex trafficking. My abuser forced me to have forms of his name tattooed on me multiple places as a branding that I belonged to him. Before I was released from prison there was talk of having a tattoo removal program at the prison in some way to help women like me erase those traumatic brandings. It unfortunately didn't come to fruition until well after my release. So when I got out I resorted to makeup to keep them covered so people in the community wouldn't recognize me resulting in the possibility of one of my abusers getting there hands on me. Once I had gainful employment I finally had the money to pay for cover ups that cost well over \$700. I did cover ups instead of removal because it was quicker and cheaper versus laser removal as i found out my abuser was granted parole. This program absolutely needs to be back inside the prison to give women like myself truly the ability at a fresh and SAFE start back into the community. However unlike how it was in its origination of charging women \$10 a session it should be free. You see it takes the average tattoo anywhere from 4 to 10 sessions to successfully remove the entirety of the tattoo depending on size and amount of ink used. That may seem cheap to you but that is alot when the women are forced to live off of breadcrumbs for pay and must choose between two 20 min phone calls with there children a month at the cost of a little more than 5 dollars a call. Every woman will tell you they are going to use that 10 dollars to remain connected to there children over removal of tattoos that place them potentially in harms way upon release.*”**

***I urge you not just to support this bill, but to make accessibility to it free. You will be ensuring the true possibility for women to re enter the community with a fresh and safe start. Thankyou for listening to my testimony.***

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***I hope this email gets to you in time for this morning hearing. Please let me know.***

***Respectfully,***

***[NAME OMITTED FOR SAFETY]***