

April 5, 2013

Oregon State Committee on Business and Transportation
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301
Hearing Room B

RE: Oregon Senate Bill #836

To the Committee:

This is my testimony submitted to the Senate Committee on Business and Transportation in support of SB836.

My name is Christina Kortum, I have been currently working in film and TV here in Oregon for the last 7 years as a Special FX Makeup Artist. In this specialty, I create and apply custom prosthetic pieces to apply to actors for film, stage, theatre, and photography and transform them into creatures of fantasy and science fiction. I am also a member of the film and TV union (Local 488).

I was quite shocked to hear that an esthetician's license became required in the state of Oregon for me to practice my craft. The makeup I specialize in is so far outside the realm of what is done in a salon that I have a hard time connecting the two. None of the techniques, products, or tricks of the trade for special fx are taught in salon schools. I would never dream of doing the work that an esthetician does, and would always contract the services of one if I needed such work. To perhaps put it a little in perspective, I feel requiring an esthetician's license to practice my craft is a bit like asking a plumber to go to carpentry school. Perhaps related because they are both construction jobs, but very different skills and tools are needed.

In fact, if I find out that a person only has salon training in their background I would not feel comfortable hiring them to do film, theater, or TV work. All these mediums require knowledge that is very different than what is taught to estheticians. How we apply the makeup, maintain the makeup, and the products we use are often quite different than what is used by the general public or those with basic training. We are creating characters and taking makeup to another level that is very different than what is being taught in esthetic schools.

There is also the impact the current law has on new productions coming to Oregon, knowing that there are issues with hiring makeup artists and restrictions that limit who they are able to work with. For films that rely heavily on the talents of makeup artists to make their story come to life, Oregon becomes a state that is behind the times and severely limited in their qualified talent pool.

Please support SB836. Thank you very much for your time.

Sincerely,

Christina Kortum