

Senate Committee on Business and Transportation
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Apr 6, 2013

This is my testimony submitted to the Senate Committee on Business and Transportation. I want to offer my support of SB 836.

My name is Katherine Ross. I am a professional makeup and hair stylist. I work solely in the commercial still photography, video and film business. I have been in this business for over 30 years. I am a licensed professional in the state of Oregon. I am licensed in: Hair, Face and Nails

I do not agree with the state's provision that professional artists need to be licensed to work on commercials, photo shoots, weddings, television or movies. What we are asked to do on set has so very little to do with ANY of the training I received while training for my license.

As a makeup artist, we only apply makeup, we do not penetrate the skin below the first layer of the derma. We are not administering facials, extracting whiteheads or performing hair removal. What we do is entirely superficial. It is all based on subtle and skillful application of cosmetics. Something we simply do NOT learn in beauty school. We are artists, not technicians.

Our profession is very self-regulating in the ways of sanitation. There are hygiene standards that we all are very aware of. It is a small community of artists. For the most part we all know each other and share information. We know how and what to use to keep our tools clean and to keep our products as germ free as possible to keep our talent safe. Our talent certainly knows what it looks like when they are being serviced by a professional artist in a hygienic way. We would most certainly hear about it if we weren't. An artist with a dirty kit and unclean standard would be admonished by his or her boss and simply not be asked back. There is a way things are done on set. All artists come to set with brush cleaners, hand sanitizer, and alcohol spray and wipes. We are constantly cleaning and re-cleaning our tools and hands while at work. We keep all our talent's brushes puffs and sponges in a separate bag with their names on it to keep each actor as contaminate free as possible.

As a hair stylist, we are not asked to cut, color or perm hair. We only style hair. Again, in a superficial way, not making any permanent changes in color or hair structure. Again, we have our hygiene standards to keep in the hair department as well. Clean combs and brushes are expected for each actor.

I am proud to be a licensed professional. But I do not believe that our profession should require a license. I remember waiting for the beauty portion of my cosmetic training. Believing that it would be the most fun and creative part of my schooling. I couldn't wait to learn some new makeup techniques. Well, it came and went in a flash. It couldn't have been more basic and disappointing. I had enrolled in school after already working in the photographic business for 7 years. I felt so bad for my fellow classmates that I taught the class in the end. My school gave

me two days to teach my classmates some useful techniques for applying makeup. THAT to me is a great example of just how un-related having a license is to our business. Everything I do on set has so very little to do with what I learned at beauty school. It SEEMS related but really, it just isn't.

Here is example to paint a picture of what I mean by that:

I have heard this same story countless times over the years: A bride who has had her hair cut and colored by the same wonderful licensed technician for the past several years; Great haircuts, beautiful color. Now it's time for her wedding. She has her wedding hair done by her hairstylist and her makeup done by the facialist working at the salon. Her hair is an over-styled nightmare and her makeup looks cheap and the bride looks nothing like herself. Ahh yes... I have heard this story a thousand times. Here is the problem;

Her hairstylist is adept at cutting, coloring and perming. Not styling. It is a totally different thing. It SEEMS related, but it's not.

Her facialist is skilled at facials and hair removal. Not makeup application. It is a different discipline between makeup artist and facialist.

The level of hair styling and makeup artistry that is needed on set is simply not taught in beauty school. The kind of schooling needed really can only come from a professional who has worked in the photo business with a comprehensive understanding of film makeup and hair.

Now, why do you suppose a licensed person like me cares about my unlicensed competition when it seems that I would benefit from the lack of competition? I could clean up, right?
Wrong.

To keep the high standards that have evolved over many years, we need to keep our best artists WORKING. Portland has become known for it's rich talent base. If the good Portland artists were gone, our clients would go elsewhere to get their commercials shot. Our hard won out of town clients will disappear off to another state that isn't requiring expensive (and unrelated to our business) schooling.

- We don't need licensed technicians working on our sets. We need great artists.-

Thank you for listening,

Katherine Ross