

JACKIE DINGFELDER
STATE SENATOR
DISTRICT 23



OREGON STATE SENATE
900 Court St. NE, S-407
Salem, OR 97301

To: Senate General Government Consumer and Small Business Protection Committee
From: Senator Jackie Dingfelder, Senate District 23
Date: May 16, 2013

Re: Testimony in Support of HB 3409

Chair Shields and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for hearing HB 3409, and for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of this bill.

This bill first came to Representative Keny-Guyer and me from a constituent, Amber Starks. Ms. Starks is an entrepreneurial young woman with a passion for natural hair care and social justice, and it has been a pleasure working with her over the last year on HB 3409, also known as the Natural Hair Care Act.

This is a bill that will create economic opportunities for Oregonians interested in providing natural hair care services. Natural hair is defined in HB 3409 as braiding, twisting, weaving, and locking of hair. Under HB 3409, natural hair care does not include the use of cutting, or chemicals. Most cosmetology school curriculum focuses on chemical treatment and cutting of hair, and very few schools offer courses in natural hair care, making the current requirement that natural hair care practitioners get a full cosmetology license overly burdensome and often irreverent to their scope of practice.

HB 3409 will create an exemption for those interested in practicing natural hair care from the requirement that practitioners get a full cosmetology license and attend cosmetology school. The bill will create a separate, less onerous licensing requirement that requires applicants to prove their understanding of health, safety, and sanitation rules and practices.

This is a good bill that acknowledges the shortcomings of our current cosmetology curriculum, which does not require natural hair course work. I ask that you join me in supporting Oregon's natural hair care practitioners and HB 3409.

Thank you again for the opportunity to share my support for this bill and for my constituent who made this bill happen.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jackie Dingfelder".

Senator Jackie Dingfelder
District 23