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Dear Oregon House Healthcare Committee Member –

I am writing to ask your support of HB 2642 regarding aestheticians in Oregon and aesthetic non-ablative laser use. For far too long the state of Oregon has lagged behind in setting standards for aestheticians and the use of lasers in the aesthetic field. The statute that is currently in place is both vague and poorly written. In fact it was so poorly written and vague that OHLA and the Board of Cosmetology published in February 2008 *Facial Forward* publication a clarification of how they interpreted the statute. In 2008 OHLA and the Board of Cosmetology clearly defined the scope of practice for licensed aestheticians in the state of Oregon that it WAS ok to use non-ablative lasers in their businesses. As a result many aestheticians and business owners made business decisions based on that very publication. Business decisions such as large capital purchases of laser equipment and hiring aestheticians to use that laser equipment. Capital investments often times totaling over \$250,000. Fast forward to September 2013, when the Board of Cosmetology formed a committee to look into laser use and safety with respect to aestheticians in Oregon. This committee was poised to propose an emergency order to the Board of Cosmetology prohibiting Oregon estheticians from providing any aesthetic laser services with the exception of laser hair removal (non-ablative or otherwise). This proposed emergency ban created a tremendous concern within the entire aesthetic community; not just aestheticians. After a public hearing on the matter in October, Holly Mercer proposed to the Board of Cosmetology (BOC) that the emergency order be rescinded, and that the board consider forming a Rules Advisory Committee (RAC) to do further research into this very complicated issue. The RAC was tasked with fact-finding so that they would be able to make recommendations to the BOC for rule changes with respect to laser usage and aestheticians in Oregon. As a member of the RAC, myself along with my fellow committee members, spent the next 6 months conducting research and debating future recommendations for rule changes that would address public safety, as well as set a standard by which licensed aestheticians would be trained, supervised, and tested in their competency to safely provide non-ablative aesthetic laser services. Unfortunately, during the middle of this process, we were informed by Holly Mercer that any changes that were to be made regarding aestheticians and lasers would require a change in the Oregon Statute. The RAC was immediately disbanded. A

small, dedicated group of former RAC members formed an Ad Hoc committee to then pursue a new statute to address these needed changes. Much hard work and many hours have been dedicated to the creation of this HB 2642 to ensure public safety for Oregon residents; clearly defined scope of practice for aestheticians with appropriate training in non-ablative laser treatments; and continued living wage jobs for aestheticians in the state of Oregon.

Thank you so much for your time and your consideration of HB 2642. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions.

Warmest Regards,

Erika L. Wilson, BS, MHS, MLSO