

Dear Chairman and members of the Health Care Committee

My name is Debora Masten. I am a licensed esthetician and have worked with lasers and light based devices for 18 years here in Oregon. I am a Master Esthetician in the state of Washington and a National Trainer for a light based device manufacturer. I am also a certificated Esthetics educator for the state of Oregon and I am contracted as a consultant by the state of Oregon as a subject matter expert for the cosmetology board. I served Oregon from 2006 to 2012 as a member and as chairman of the Oregon State board of Cosmetology.

House Bill 2642 will solve an area of quantifying advanced aesthetic procedure educational training for the use of Lasers in Oregon.

Estheticians are doing laser procedures around our state and meeting the needs of consumers in salons, spas, and medi spa's in every city. The vast majority of us are practicing safely and have received quality training and continue to learn as technology changes. During my 6 years as a board member on the state board of cosmetology I do not remember one light based device safety or service complaint of an esthetician until the latest case (Forever Young). In the Forever Young case a physician was claiming to be overseeing the estheticians.

As Estheticians we are trying to keep up with the technological demands of our profession and practice at the highest level possible. Other professions are allowed within their scope to learn, grow and expand as technology changes and so should estheticians.

In my role as a sales representative I have seen an increase in medical practices using non licensed medical assistants and even front office staff operating these devices. The problem is not just with estheticians but those acting as a laser technicians. Educational requirements should be required across the board for anyone in our state who operates class 3b or class 4 lasers. In the past we had only to consider pulse width and power output of a laser system. Now as technology is advancing we must understand pulsed frequency and stacking, tissue remodeling, and how spot size can impact parameters. Our educational pathways must keep pace with the consumer demands. A recent insurance claim study of non-physician laser users showed a rise in claims. In this study there was no breakdown of what license these users held. This rise in claims could be from the growth in the number of treatments being performed in addition to poorly trained users. These users are medical assistants, nurses, laser technicians, PA's, and estheticians.

National standards for safe use of lasers say, "A Class 3B laser system may be hazardous under direct and specular reflection viewing conditions, but is normally not a diffuse reflection or fire hazard. A Class 4 laser system (high-power): Is a hazard to the eye or skin from the direct beam, and may pose a diffuse reflection or fire hazard. It may also produce laser generated air contaminants (LGAC) and hazardous plasma radiation."

Competency testing should be required to qualify an individual to use class 3b and class 4 laser device once the educational requirements are completed.

Sincerely,

Debora Masten

https://www.lia.org/PDF/Z136_1

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2013/10/131017093507.htm>