

MEASURE: SB 699
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April 27, 2015

Honorable Representative Paul Holvey, Chair
House Committee on Business & Labor
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Representative Holvey and Members of the House Committee on Business & Labor:

I'm writing in support of SB 699, which would create a licensing exemption for cosmetology services in connection with film, television, commercial photography, or theatrical production as a means to easing the regulatory burden on our industry.

At the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, our business model of rotating repertory – including up to 10 plays performing at once – and performance runs of up to eight months make management of hair, wigs, and makeup a crucial part of our operation. An exemption to the licensing requirements for cosmetology services would be of tremendous benefit to OSF and to dozens of other theatre companies and entertainment producers across Oregon.

Because each actor at OSF normally performs in at least two productions each season, it is typical for them to wear wigs for each play. However, many actors receive cosmetology services from licensed members of our staff throughout the season in order to maintain their appearance to the standards established by the directors and costume designers of the plays in which they appear. Among the services which we provide are haircuts, beard and mustache trimming, and application of makeup and hair products. Easing the licensing requirements for these services for theatrical performances would allow OSF to expand our hiring pool and would allow the many talented members of our staff who do not possess cosmetology licenses but who are deeply trained in wig creation, makeup artistry, and other theatre-specific skills to expand the work they can perform.

It is important that OSF and other entertainment producers be able to manage our performers' appearances ourselves, rather than sending them to salons for cosmetology services. Most important to us are the artistic requirements set for each play, which we cannot easily entrust to an outside service provider. In addition, our performers often work under very constrained schedules and cosmetology services must often be squeezed into an actor's workday between rehearsals, performances, and costume fittings, frequently on days and at times when hair salons are not open. A licensing exemption which would permit us to perform these services onsite at our facilities would potentially save us thousands of dollars each year in rental expense.

I strongly urge you to support SB 699, and thank you for your consideration of this important change in Oregon's regulatory landscape.

Very sincerely yours,

Cynthia Rider
Executive Director