

My name is Oriana and today I am writing to ask for your support of measure HB 2970.

Here is a bit of my story. I have been an esthetician for 5 years, (and my business is thankfully surviving the pandemic!) After accruing thousands of dollars of student loan debt during undergraduate and graduate school, I was unable to find a job in my field of study and worked for years waiting tables. When my daughter was a year old, I switched gears and entered esthetic school, and after graduating I was finally able to earn a living wage to help support my family with my small skincare practice, which I run in NE Portland.

Myself and many other estheticians in Oregon have based our skincare practices around non-invasive, perfectly safe devices that we received in depth training in. Many of these devices, such as LED and microcurrent, are even available for the non-professional to purchase and safely use at home.

This bill would allow us to continue to use those tools, while keeping devices such as lasers, which are more dangerous, safely out of our scope, only to be used by advanced estheticians. If this bill does not pass, I fear that my business, and many of my fellow practitioners' businesses, may close.

I estimate that if this bill does not pass, and I am prohibited from using my tools, I will lose at least 30K in income next year.

Skincare is my second career, (as it is for many estheticians), one that enables me to support my family and to pay off my student loan debt.

Skincare businesses have suffered dearly during the pandemic, from being forced to close, and then to reopen with many new costs and covid protocols. Many of our businesses are barely hanging on, and having our perfectly safe tools taken away from us would be detrimental to our livelihoods.

Thank you for your consideration.
Oriana Lewton-Leopold