

Testimony on SB 217

Senate Education Committee

January 26, 2023

To the Senate Education Committee,

I am writing in opposition to SB 217 because of the additional strain it puts on education for students.

I work in our Student Services department, assisting students to obtain their license and finding a career in the industry. My priority is to make that process as straightforward and timely as possible for our students and shifting the oversight of our curriculum to HLO would do the opposite.

HLO has mentioned that they would be transparent in working with the Cosmetology schools for guidance, however I have not found this to be the case. Unfortunately, there were two recent opportunities to work with cosmetology schools and they did not reach out to schools to work toward solutions, and instead doubled down and refused to review any possibilities when questioned. These two opportunities are:

- The licensure exam shutdown for 2 years during Covid. They shutdown testing for several months in 2020, then reopened under an extremely limited capacity. It was taking students several months to even schedule their exams, delaying their careers and making the studying and review process extremely tedious. There were no viable solutions to help graduates get licensed in a timely manner for over 2-years during Covid. While at the same time, PCS schools managed to continue education and graduate students with the same Covid barriers.
- HLO reported low pass rates on various written test. Testing is currently created at HLO level. We have not seen a reach out from HLO to solve this problem. Another current opportunity missed.

The main reasons that HLO has sighted for these slowdowns with testing is not having adequate facilities or staffing to keep up with the numbers coming through their facility. With the heavy workload of managing curriculum as well, I can't see this being an efficient solution for the education of our students.

When nuanced questions are brought to either agency about differences in modalities or how to proceed with certain instructor training questions for example, they have defaulted to saying that is something the other agency deals with. Having to report to different regulatory agencies where the lines are not clearly defined adds extra red tape that will further delay processes for our students.

I ask that you consider these concerns I have for our students in your decision on SB 217. Thank you for your time.

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