

July 8, 2015

Governor Kate Brown  
160 State Capitol  
900 Court Street  
Salem, OR 97301-4047

**RE: Opposition of HB 2642**

Dear Governor Brown:

On behalf of the American Society of Plastic Surgeons (ASPS), I am writing to express serious opposition to Oregon House Bill 2642, which would expand the scope of practice for estheticians beyond their professional training. ASPS was founded in 1931 and represents over 7,000 physicians certified by the American Board of Plastic Surgery. Our members are committed to the highest-quality care, and we believe this legislation raises considerable patient safety concerns that would compromise medical care for patients in Oregon.

If passed, HB 2642 would allow non-physician estheticians to use FDA-regulated medical devices, lasers, to perform complex medical procedures that fall squarely within the practice of medicine. Allowing estheticians to practice medicine without the requisite medical school and residency training will jeopardize patient safety and lower the standard of surgical care in the state. While the bill claims the listed procedures to be “nonablative,” the possibility of complications arising from these procedures is significant. For that reason, as mentioned in the attached document, the Oregon Health Licensing office specifically notes that the legislature excluded services that are for “medical diagnosis or treatment of disease or physical or mental ailments” from the scope of esthetics practice. The document clearly states that procedures listed in this bill are outside the scope of esthetics.

HB 2642 also includes the creation of an independent laser esthetician board. This board could expand laser esthetic scope of practice as it solely determines, without input or oversight from the state’s Medical Board. ASPS finds this deeply troubling, and we believe that the vast majority of physician groups are aligned with us on this question. Estheticians do not receive the same education and training as physician surgeons receive. While estheticians are only required to receive 250 hours of training from a private career school to receive a license, physician surgeons must attain a core medical and surgical education while completing seven to ten years of training, which includes increasing responsibility and decision-making authority in the hospital setting.

Due to patient safety issues and the possibility of complications arising from surgery, it is critical that medical procedures using medical devices are performed only by providers who have the requisite training and board certification to handle complications when they do occur. I again urge you to **VETO** House Bill 2642 in order to protect the high standard of patient safety in Oregon. If you have any questions or need further assistance, please feel free to contact Patrick Hermes, Senior Manager of Government Affairs and Advocacy at [phermes@plasticsurgery.org](mailto:phermes@plasticsurgery.org).

Sincerely,



Scot Bradley Glasberg, MD  
President, American Society of Plastic Surgeons