



Testimony in Support of

LD 1861 ("An Act to Require Training on Textured Hair for Aestheticians, Barber Hair Stylists, Cosmetologists and Hair Designers")

**Shawn Stearns, Education Lead for L'Oréal Professional Products Division
Schools Team on behalf of L'Oréal USA**

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Senator Tipping, Representative Roeder and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Labor my name is Shawn Stearns and I am the Education Lead for L'Oréal Professional Products Division Schools Team. I am a proud cosmetologist for more than 33 years. I am also a proud educator for more than 25 years. In addition to my Cosmetology license, I hold both undergraduate and graduate degrees in education, including one in Adult Education. I have worked professionally with cosmetology schools across our country for almost 5 years now. I'm appearing before you today on behalf of L'Oréal in support of LD 1861.

We support the bill for the following 3 reasons.

First, from my own experience in cosmetology school and my time working with schools across the country, there is an ongoing need to ensure that all students in cosmetology and barber school receive both training and opportunities to work on all textures of hair prior to graduation.

Second, we will help expand textured hair education by ensuring that curriculum training on textured hair reaches a wide range of students and instructors across Maine. At L'Oréal, we have developed a comprehensive, digital, and asynchronous curriculum on textured hair to maximize accessibility and impact. Through these, efforts and investments, we have seen a significant increase in confidence among both students and instructors as they gain the skills to work with all hair types.

Third, in my experience, LD 1861 should not increase additional hours for cosmetology schools. The skills they are taught are often demonstrated more than once and practiced multiple times. All that is required is to make sure that demonstrations are done on multiple hair types and that practice sessions are executed on multiple hair textures as well. This way, they spend the same number of hours learning and practicing, they are simply done on a variety of hair textures to ensure comprehensive training that sets students up for success.

For these reasons, we respectfully ask that you support LD 1861. Thank you for your time – I'm happy to answer any questions you may have.