

May 6, 2025

Chairman Michael Tipping
Maine State Legislature, Joint Committee on Labor
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

RE: LD 1861/ SP0731

Dear Chairman Tipping and Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Labor,

On behalf of the Professional Beauty Association (PBA) we express our support for LD 1861/SP0731. LD 1861 will require a person applying for an individual license to practice as a cosmetologist, hair technician, manager, or instructor to complete training and have experience providing services on all hair textures, including coil, curl, or wave patterns, hair strand thicknesses, and volumes of hair. The legislation will ensure safe and sanitary texture hair care services are provided by educated, trained, and licensed beauty professionals in Maine.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics overall employment of barbers, hairstylists, and cosmetologists is projected to grow 8 percent from 2022 to 2032, faster than the average for all occupations. About 89,400 openings for barbers, hairstylists, and cosmetologists are projected each year, on average, over the decade. As the industry continues to grow and change, skills are refocused to meet the demands of consumers while maintaining health and safety.

The Texture Education Collective, an initiative of the Professional Beauty Association, is an alliance of professional hair industry leaders working to ensure cosmetology state licensing requirements and curriculum are inclusive of all hair textures and all hair types. Licensed professionals are trained and required to provide safe services. Consumers have a reasonable expectation to receive safe services in a sanitary environment. The proposed legislation fully aligns with our mission, and we commend the sponsors and the state of Maine for taking this essential step towards safety and inclusivity. This legislation is critical considering:

- Seventy-five percent of stylists express a desire for more training in styling textured hair.
- Sixty-five percent of the world's consumer population has textured hair, a market of one billion people.

With the passage of this legislation, Maine will be at the forefront of promoting a more inclusive profession and experience for consumers. The Texture Education Collective urges the honorable members of the Committee and the Maine legislature to support and pass this legislation. It represents a significant stride towards creating an industry that can safely meet the needs of every individual, fostering inclusion, understanding, and ensuring safe services.

Sincerely,
Myra Reddy, Director of Government Affairs
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