

STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
**DEAN KNUDSON**

30TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

January 15, 2014

Testimony RE: AB 503

Assembly Committee on State Affairs and Government Operations

Mr. Chairman,

Thank you for holding this hearing, and for affording me this opportunity to testify in favor of AB 503. This bill and its Senate companion SB 395, would accomplish two main goals: lowering the hours required to receive a cosmetology license in Wisconsin from 1800 to 1550, and allowing those who have gone to school out of state to have their credits recognized in Wisconsin.

Lowering the number of hours to 1550 would put Wisconsin on par with 26 other states and afford the opportunity for employment in Wisconsin to a greater number of students without the significant financial cost of an additional nearly 300 hours of training. This issue came to us from a constituent—as you know, Rep. Knudson represents a border district, just 15 minutes from the Twin Cities. This constituent attended school at Aveda, one of the best schools in the country, at a significant expense, only to return to Wisconsin and be told that she needed an additional 250 hours. This legislation is a matter of fairness for those who have satisfied what is rapidly becoming a national standard.

Additionally, Assembly Amendment 1 fixes a significant problem brought to our attention by Rep. Tranel. Currently, DSPS has no formal process for handling or verifying the transcripts of those who attend cosmetology schools out of state. The amendment directs the cosmetology board to, via rule, establish recognized accrediting agencies, much like what is done in many other professions. Any student who attends a school accredited by one of the recognized agencies would have their credits recognized in Wisconsin.

I appreciate your consideration and am open to any questions.