



Proponent Testimony on HB 189

Before the

House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee

By

Lori Yeager

On

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Chairman Blessing, Vice Chair Reineke, Ranking Member Clyde and members of the House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on the cosmetology reforms contained in HB 189, jointly sponsored by Rep. Kristina Roegner (R-Hudson) and Rep. Alicia Reece (D-Cincinnati). My name is Lori Yeager, and I am the franchisee/owner of 2 Sport Clips Haircuts with 16 employees/licensees throughout Ohio. One of my stores is located in Rocky River, Ohio and the other is located in Canton, Ohio. I plan on opening 3 more stores in NE Ohio in the near future.

HB 189 picks up where we left off in the 131st General Assembly with the passage of SB 213. OSA, along with many lawmakers, wanted to tackle several other issues, but we wanted to take the time to research what model occupational licensing reform legislation should look like for the cosmetology industry in all 50 states. For more than four years a group now called the Future of the Beauty Industry Coalition (FBIC) has been developing research from all 50 states to use as the basis for this legislation. The FBIC is made up of cosmetologists, students, salon owners, manufacturers, distributors, and cosmetology schools. This group came together to provide reasonable reforms to state cosmetology law rather simply deregulating the industry.

I am thrilled to have the opportunity to be a small business owner in a profession that allows stylists to use their creativity and artistic nature. Many of my employees have shared with me their dream of wanting to become a stylist since they were young. I even have a few relatives who have chosen this profession. Their success is strongly linked to several dynamics: 1) A quality education for 1,000 hours or less. Anything longer has proven to be more costly on the student, and doesn't necessary lead to better wages. 2) Some type of apprentice program while in school. This is done in so many other professions with much success! 3) Working with salon owners to develop a program that will prepare them once they have graduated and enter the workforce. 4) License for license reciprocity between

states. I have had several stylists move to our area and had to wait for employment due to the time it took to have their license renewed from one state to another.

The hairstylist profession has been around for decades. It is a service industry that provides an ongoing need. I am grateful to the stylists who have devoted their time, energy and most importantly money to provide this service to us. Now, I feel it is our responsibility to help make it a realistic, practical and reasonable process for these soon to be professionals.

Common, sensible licensing standards are crucial to sustainable growth for our industry and protecting public safety. Together, we will build a stronger future for our industry and continue to support accountability and licensing of our professionals.

Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on **HB 189** to the committee. I hope this testimony has provided the members with some common sense changes and reasonable reforms for your consideration. The schools and the small business salon owners that provide employment to the graduates from Ohio schools of cosmetology are not seeking to deregulate the beauty industry, but to make sure state government does not unnecessarily interfere with the ability to start a business, grow a business or unnecessarily create hurdles for individuals entering the workforce to pursue a profession.

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