



**Proponent Testimony on HB 189**  
**Before the**  
**House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee**  
**By**  
**Thomas E Quick and Lisa M Groome**  
**On**  
**May 23, 2017**

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). Our names are Tom Quick and Lisa Groome and we are owners of two salons with 16 employees and rights to two additional salons in the Columbus area.

Passing HB 189 will have a positive effect on our business and allow us to expand to other locations in the area.

Our franchise is an upscale barbershop concept where our core services are haircuts and shaves for men. This bill would make into law the common-sense idea that cosmetologists can shave the face with a modern safety razor. Our clients love the service they get from the stylists - a service they cannot get anywhere else. Our stylists only ever use high-quality safety blades (such as Gillette Fusion) after extensive training. The blades are only used once and then offered to the client or thrown away. Our barbers are the only ones who ever use a straight edge razor. This is an important distinction – fusion-type blades are inherently safe. They can be purchased and used by anyone without warning or restriction. Furthermore, barbers are only trained with a straight edge, they are not taught to use a safety blade. We have had to retrain all of our barbers. Our own employees who are licensed barbers all agree that safety five-blade is the closest, safest and most hygienic method to facial shaving. This bill gives our stylists a competitive advantage and additional compensation.

As business owners, we are pleased to be able to provide employment for many barbers and cosmetologists as well as the contractors and subs hired to build all of our businesses. The Roosters MGC concept creates a cohesive environment for barbers and stylists to work in harmony with one another and it has proven successful in our Columbus locations and every Roosters MGC location throughout the country. We understand that this is a somewhat sensitive issue for the Barber Board, however, this is not justification for preventing cosmetologists from using the same tool that the general public uses to shave. Thirty nine other states already allow this practice and by state and federal agency standards, the Safety Razor has no age minimum, no training requirements and has never been considered a public health issue. We respect the barber's specialized straight edge training and will continue efforts to recruit barbers but we also need support for our cosmetologists.

We respectfully request your support for HB 189.