

Proponent Testimony on HB 189
from
Beth Hickey
Before the House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee
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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 Beth Hickey. I am hold a dual cosmetology license in Texas an Ohio (active while dormant).

By 35 years in the industry began in Canton, Ohio, where I worked in a salon after graduating from National Beauty College. I then moved on to manage a nail division in Massillon, Ohio. After becoming an educator, I was asked to move to Texas to manage events and educate for a nail company. Because of the streamlined reciprocity process in the state of Texas, I did not miss any work while obtaining my Texas license.

My biggest concern in the cosmetology industry today is the lack of reciprocity between states. I believe HB 189 has the means to create that unity in my industry. State-to-state license reciprocity is something I hope to see happen as soon as possible. Cosmetology students across the country are reading from the same textbooks and learning the same techniques, regardless of the hours required by the state. Stronger license reciprocity will bring more stylists into the state of Ohio who are ready to work.

I believe that 1,000 hours for initial schooling is what is needed to acquire a license for a cosmetologist in Ohio and throughout the country. I do believe that a new Cosmetologist coming into the industry will always have a lot to learn regardless of the state-mandated education they receive to obtain their license. As a former salon owner, my employees, regardless of experience, went through a salon training program where they shadowed our lead colorist and stylist. As their employer, the program allowed me the ability to gain more insight into their existing skill set.

The knowledge behind the chemicals we use is far beyond elementary sciences. Licensed professionals are trained to utilize chemicals and tools safely to avoid injuries and the spread of infectious diseases such as burns, hair damage and loss, ring worm, folliculitis, lice, chemical burns, scarring, staph infections, nail separation, infections after waxing, Hepatitis B or Hepatitis C, HIV and more. The 1,000-hour requirement proscribed in this legislation for a full cosmetology license is plenty of time to provide the initial education for individuals to begin their careers.

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written proponent testimony. I urge your support and expedient passage of HB 189.