



Proponent Testimony on HB 189

Before the House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee

By Mahlaina Yeager

On June 21, 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). My name is Mahlaina Yeager and I am a licensed cosmetologist in the state of Ohio.

HB 189 will bring common-sense cosmetology licensing reform to our state. I hope I can count on your support for this initiative. Once passed, House Bill 189 will:

- Focus on student success in entering the beauty industry with less debt and ability to repay student loans.
- Facilitate workforce development pipeline for salons.
- Foster entrepreneurship making it easier for licensed professionals to start their own businesses.

HB 189 is a strong example of reasonable legislation that directly addresses concerns of over-regulation of state-mandated occupational licensing, and will create meaningful changes to archaic cosmetology licensing laws that desperately need reform. 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. In fact, I recently transferred my license from Utah to Ohio. Due to the over burdensome regulations, I had to wait four months to receive my license in Ohio. In those four months, I could have acquired income, built my client base, and paid taxes. Those wishing to transfer their license to our state pay upwards of \$900 to enroll in a local cosmetology school to prepare for the exam, drive to Columbus to take the exam, as well as pay for the exam.

HB 189 will also allow for pre-graduate testing, which I enjoyed as a cosmetology student in Utah. I was able to take both my written and practical exams before graduating, which fully prepared me to be ready for my career upon graduation.

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.