



March 6, 2018

Chairman Louis W. Blessing III
House Government Accountability and Oversight
77 S. High St., 13th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Chairman Blessing and Members of the House Accountability and Oversight Committee:

I would like to take this opportunity to express support for House Bill 189, legislation that makes important common sense reforms to current cosmetology law. HB 189 is a comprehensive piece of legislation, but I am going to highlight a handful of provisions that benefit employers, employees and even customers.

A unique provision of HB 189 is the creation of a new apprenticeship program. Many small salon owners believe that on-the-job training is more valuable than book or classroom learning. Training apprentices on-site, gives salon owners the ability to put their stamp on future employees while showing them how certain things operate in the “real world”. Consequently, customers are more confident in the services being provided when they are assured that their practitioner has ample hands-on training. Of course, certain competencies are best learned in a classroom, but it is unnecessary to require 1,500 hours, therefore, HB 189 reduces that to 1,000 hours.

Many private cosmetology schools have closed their doors in recent years, leaving students abandoned with no license; often saddled with student loan debt and nothing to show for it. There are already numerous higher education programs that yield non-degreed students. We need to be careful not to allow cosmetology to be added to that growing list.

Finally, HB 189 is unique, in that, rarely do you have the opportunity to consider a piece of legislation that is pro-business, pro-consumer and pro-employee. Chairman Blessing, thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of HB 189. If you or any committee members should have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

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