



HOUSE BILL 189 – COSMETOLOGY LICENSURE

PROPONENT TESTIMONY

OHIO GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY & OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

DECEMBER 4, 2018

Chairman Blessing, Vice-Chair Reineke, Ranking Member Clyde and members of the Ohio House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee, my name is Chris Ferruso. I am here on behalf of the nearly 22,000 governing members of the National Federation of Independent Business in Ohio (NFIB) to lend our support for House Bill 189, legislation bringing common sense reforms to Ohio's cosmetology laws. We applaud Representatives Kristina Roegner and Alicia Reece for introducing this bill.

By way of background, a typical NFIB member in Ohio employs 25 or fewer and does less than \$2 million in annual sales. Our members come from every industry type, and our organization looks like Main Street in any legislative district across Ohio.

In addition to our public policy work, we also have the NFIB Research Foundation which is constantly surveying our members on a host of topics. Our quadrennial publication *Problems & Priorities*, captures our members' responses to a list of 75 small business issues, asking them to rank them based upon the biggest impediment to job creation/expansion/growth. Unreasonable government regulations has climbed to number two in the rankings. Our members are concerned about the barriers elected officials are preserving or erecting that hinder their ability to expand and grow their operations.

House Bill 189 adopts meaningful reform for the cosmetology industry. Today's requirements to obtain a license can serve as a hindrance to individuals seeking a career in this industry. Ohio's classroom/training hours for cosmetology are an outlier with respect to other industries. Consider the fact a cosmetologist must accumulate 1,500 hours while emergency medical technicians need only 900. In no way demeaning the important services both industries provide; something seems disproportional. While protecting the public is paramount, there must be a recognition of the need to ensure Ohio's cosmetologists are not saddled with significant debt upon completion of training and ultimately their licensure. Further, we feel it is important to create an environment that

attracts new individuals into an industry where they can complete appropriate training and enter their desired field of practice sooner and at less cost. Also, please note, all public protections remain in place and accountability remains with the salons and establishments where licensed cosmetologists are practicing.

For many, obtaining a cosmetology license fosters the entrepreneurial spirit of starting one's own business. By modernizing Ohio's training requirements to better reflect what we have heard from those in the trade, Ohio will send a strong message to these potential new business owners that their skill is needed, valued, and important. We view House Bill 189 as the first step in what we hope will be a more comprehensive review of Ohio's licensure and regulatory scheme.

We also support the reciprocity provision in House Bill 189. This key component recognizes today's mobile workforce. In particular, our border communities will be well served as granting reciprocity encourages individuals to bring their skills to Ohio, increasing Ohio tax revenue and supporting local communities.

House Bill 189 provides meaningful reform to Ohio's cosmetology laws. The bill ensures proper training requirements and protects the safety of the public while also reducing over-burdensome government requirements that discourage entrepreneurship and potentially leave individuals with large amounts of debt. Ohio has the unique opportunity to be a leader in this industry. We encourage swift passage of House Bill 189. House Bill 189 will be a key vote for NFIB for the 132nd General Assembly.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I would be happy to try and address any questions the committee may have.