

Opposition Testimony On Substitute House Bill 189
Before the House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee
Date: 12/4/18

To Chairman Blessing, Vice Chair Reineke, Ranking Member Clyde, and members of the Government Accountability and Oversight Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide opposition testimony today on HB 189.

My name is Wezlynn VanDyke Davis. Last year in September I testified and approximately 50 women were standing with me. In March of this year 150 people were present in opposition when the bill was voted through. Today I stand here today, as a board member of the Ohio Barber and Beauty Alliance and our membership numbers are rapidly growing. My testimony has the wholehearted support of the National Barber Boards of America, which represents over 400,000 licensees, the Ohio Association of Beauticians, the Ohio Association of Cosmetology and the Aveda Coalition. We are united, stronger than ever and fully represent the industry and consumers in their entirety. I serve clients, operate a business, I'm a consultant to other professionals, a leader in my field, and have held an advanced license in my industry for 10 years

I'm aware of the new amendments offered by proponents. And I'd like to touch on a few things:

- Elimination of optional education is unjustifiable and indefensible, and has been deemed as an attack on our thriving entrepreneurial and female dominated market. How can we not feel that way? It is no secret the designers of the bill are corporate and national chain owners that govern our licensure, the ones who took oaths to serve on our state board. They need employees. One of them has corporate support and access to pipelined training and the other has incredible progressive training

program and an extensive and paralyzing non-compete contracts.

Furthermore, elimination of our optional state recognized licensure would decrease reciprocity in 3 scopes of practice, which directly contradicts proponents alleged mobility goal.

- Please keep in mind an amendment was offered by Government Oversight and Reform Chairman and State Senator Coley to restore advanced licensure to secure reciprocity for Ohioans' living on bordering state lines.
- Regarding reduction of school debt: proponent claims are misleading. In fact, this legislation does not reduce school loan debt but will significantly reduce Pell Grant distributions to the students who need them, rely on them, and qualify. Patrick Thompson, owner of 2 Aveda Institutes in Ohio and One in LA is here today to provide you not with claims but with facts supported by data and real experience.
- Raplh from Youngstown and Deb from Portsmouth are here with students. They're schools are on the border. This bill again contradicts claims of promoting mobility, as it would hinder anyone who attends their schools if enacted. It also contradicts claims of preventing school closings and bordering schools would surely close because students could easily cross the bridge into Pennsylvania, Michigan, Indiana, West Virginia and Kentucky to attend a school that provides them reciprocity with nearly the entire country.
- Proponents may have added back the natural hair license due to the testimony of a school owner and the passion and concerns raised from State Representative Kent. However, with the elimination of the advanced

license this bill will cause the Natural Hair Licensing Institutions to lose the accreditation for which they've have worked so hard and that takes years to obtain. Proponents claim this bill is written to prevent school closing but in fact will be the cause of school closings.

- Lastly, proponents feel confident their designed apprenticeship program is unlike any other. The bill states cosmetology schools would have to pay the apprenticeship program provider \$2500 to help them. Pay competitor to provide them with your help and expertise as they take your students as a result of corporate marketing and glamorous promises due to lack of governance of the Ohio Department of Education, State Board, accreditors. This does not sound like anything that fits in to a common sense initiative.

In closing: House Bill 189 was developed by and is supported by the 0.2% percent. Only 1 year and 8 months after SB 213 passed, I am here representing the 98.8% small female owned single establishment, pleading with you once more to vote no to this special interest and unethically designed legislation. I am happy to answer any questions you may have. Thank you for your time.
Sincerely,

Wezlynn VanDyke Davis

Founder of The Beauty Lab

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