

Proponent Testimony on SB 129 (Written)
By Frank Gambuzza, President - Intercoiffure America/Canada
Before the Senate Government Oversight & Reform Committee

On Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2017

Dear Chairman Coley, Vice Chair Uecker, Ranking Member Schiavoni and distinguished members of the Senate Government Accountability & Reform Committee:

I would like to show my support for Senate Bill 129. SB 129 will bring common-sense cosmetology licensing reform to the state of Ohio. I hope I can count on your support for this initiative. Once passed, Senate Bill 129 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.

SB 129 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. To support these reforms, the Future of the Beauty Industry Coalition has sponsored independent third-party research to study student financial issues and cosmetology licensure reforms, and gain insights into the key performance metrics of programs in states with varying hours required for cosmetology licensing. The data shows:

- **Longer programs create greater risk for students.** The more time that lapses between graduation and licensing, the more likely graduates are to drop out or “go underground.”
- **Longer programs lead to higher student loan debt.** There is a significant relationship between curriculum hours and the median federal loan amount necessary to fulfill a licensure program.
- **More curriculum hours do not lead to better wages.** While there is variability in mean hourly wage across states, there is no evidence showing that more curriculum hours lead to higher wages.

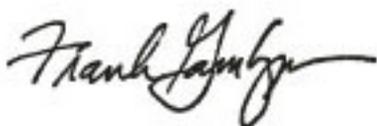
Please consider this as written testimony and submit this as written testimony.

Support for cosmetology reform will provide greater accessibility to jobs for Ohioans and encourage consistency by joining other states throughout the country with less restrictive regulations for occupational licensing.

Being in the business since 1971 and having hired and trained hundreds of hairdressers, I am in total support of this bill and back it with my life's work.

I urge you to support Senate Bill 129. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



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