

Proponent Testimony on SB 129 (Written)
By Steve Sleeper, Professional Beauty Association
Before the Senate Government Oversight & Reform Committee
On Tuesday, December 12, 2017

Chairman Coley, Vice Chair Uecker, Ranking Member Schiavoni and distinguished members of the Senate Government Accountability & Reform Committee: thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on the cosmetology reforms contained in SB 129.

On behalf of the Professional Beauty Association, I would like to show my support for Senate Bill 129. SB 129 will bring common-sense cosmetology licensing reform to our members in the Buckeye State. 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.
- Enable beauty professionals to enter Ohio and start working without completing additional training or testing.
- Allow for pre-graduate testing to help increase licensure rates.

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.

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. I understand this hearing is the last opportunity for SB 129 to be discussed before the holidays. I urge your favorable action on the bill in early 2018. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Steve Sleeper
Executive Director
Professional Beauty Association