

Proponent Testimony on SB 129 (Written)

by Michael A. Schuh, Owner of Michael's Salon and Spa

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. My name is Michael Schuh and I am the owner of Michael's Salon and Spa located in Centerville, Ohio. I want to express my support for the cosmetology reforms contained in SB 129.

I have been in business for over 40 years in the State of Ohio. My salon employs about 85 people. I have witnessed many changes in the cosmetology industry. I feel that we are currently at a critical juncture and the future of the industry is at stake.

In order for the industry to survive, we need a steady stream of young talent entering the field. Historically, we have relied on career tech schools and for-profit schools to supply that talent. However, the enactment of the Gainful Employment Act resulted in 80% of for-profit schools within 40 miles of my salon closing. Statewide, 10% of cosmetology schools in Ohio closed. These closures have significantly reduced the number of applicants available to fill openings in the salon industry.

I believe that the implementation of a board approved apprenticeship program is part of the solution to this problem. The hands-on exposure an apprentice would receive allows them to gain an understanding of the demands and rewards of a career in cosmetology. Expectations will be more aligned with reality, increasing the chances for a successful career.

An apprenticeship program would not eliminate the need for other options; private schools and career tech schools would continue to offer the more traditional path. There is a place, and a need, for all of these components if the industry is to survive and grow.

Respectfully,



Michael A. Schuh