



January 29, 2019

The Honorable Scott Wiggam  
Chairman, Ohio House State and Local Government Committee

RE: Written Testimony in Support of House Bill 399

Dear Chairman Wiggam:

On behalf of the Ohio Chamber of Commerce and our 8,000 members, I write to you in support of House Bill 399; legislation that makes changes to Ohio's cosmetology and barber laws and licensure system. The Cosmetology Reform Act would reduce the number of licensure training hours for cosmetologists and barbers to 1,000 each as opposed to 1,500 and 1,800, respectively.

The Ohio Chamber regularly tackles issues related to workforce development and business overregulation. Many times, our members express grave concern with the struggle to find qualified workers and that government regulations impede their ability to grow. An example of this is in the private cosmetology school setting where there is a requirement that an individual have 1,500 training hours before being able to sit for the state board examination. Many of these hours are spent in a classroom and not actually practicing the trade.

HB 399 is a common-sense reform that will translate into individuals achieving licensure more expeditiously. Salon owners throughout the state continue to cite staffing shortages and difficulty finding qualified employees that are not saddled with high student loan debt as chief concerns. Shortened cosmetology programs may translate into lower tuition costs and, in many cases, lower student loan debt. Lowering the barriers to entry, such as cost and a lengthy licensure process, can prevent individuals from foregoing cosmetology as a viable career path while not sacrificing quality.

Lastly, many salon owners are small businesses who already face a tremendous amount of regulation and red tape. The passage of HB 399 will send a clear message to these entrepreneurs that Ohio understands the challenges they face and wants to remove barriers to individuals entering this industry.

It is for these reasons that we ask for you to support HB 399. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding our support of HB 399 at [kboehner@ohiochamber.com](mailto:kboehner@ohiochamber.com) or 614-228-4201.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin Boehner". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Kevin Boehner  
Director, Small Business and Workforce Policy