



**Thomas A. Schatz, *President***  
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Chairman Scott Wiggam  
Vice Chair Jason Stephens  
Ranking Member Brigid Kelly  
House State and Local Government Committee  
Ohio House of Representatives  
77 S. High Street #12  
Columbus, OH 43215

June 8, 2020

Dear Chairman Wiggam, Vice Chair Stephens, Ranking Member Kelly, and members of the House State and Local Government Committee,

My name is Thomas Schatz, and I am the president of the Council for Citizens Against Government Waste (CCAGW). On behalf of more than 124,044 CCAGW members and supporters in Ohio, I am submitting the following testimony regarding House Bill 673, introduced by Representative Bill Roemer (R-Richfield).

CCAGW's mission reflects the interests of taxpayers and covers a wide variety of issues, including reducing regulatory barriers that hinder economic growth and prosperity.

During the coronavirus pandemic, many students working toward required state certifications in the healthcare, education, and other business industries were adversely impacted by statewide closures of businesses, which forestalled their ability to achieve required hours in healthcare facilities, schools, or on-the-job training programs. House Bill 673 offers practical free-market solutions to help Ohio recover from the pandemic by either temporarily waiving some of these requirements, adjusting the requirements for those who are currently working in their chosen fields on a temporary license, or extending the period of time in which an applicant can work toward completing the required hours of service.

This legislation clarifies that prospective nurses working under a temporary license during the current pandemic to assist the healthcare workforce will have the hours they are working count toward the required certified clinical hours necessary to qualify for the Ohio Board of Nursing examination for full licensing. Currently, the Board has not indicated whether hours worked under a temporary license will be counted toward certified hours. Additionally, the bill will require the Department of Higher Education to enable nursing students to get back on track by increasing the speed and capacity of their classes.

To expand the number of locations where individuals can be tested for COVID-19 and its antibodies across the state of Ohio, HB 673 expands current law by enabling pharmacists who provide flu shots to individuals age seven or older to also test for COVID-19 and antibodies.

In addition to eliminating unnecessary regulations on healthcare workers, the bill also provides regulatory relief to the state's future educators and businesses impacted by COVID-19.

When schools in Ohio closed in March 2020, student teachers were unable to complete the in-school hours and other requirements necessary to achieve a full teaching certificate from the state Board of Education. This bill temporarily suspends requirements for student teachers by providing more flexibility for them to complete their required hours during the 2020-2021 school year. In addition, the legislation will also provide thousands of already licensed education professionals relief in completing their annual requirements currently necessary to retain their licenses.

During these difficult times, many people have been struggling to keep their businesses in operation. For salon owners and their employees the pandemic does not mean their services are unnecessary or that their existing training is insufficient for them to continue operations. HB 673 will temporarily suspend professional development hours and eliminate the temporary event salon license, reducing the cost of getting back to work. The temporary salon license would allow barbers and cosmetologists to cut hair at any location without obtaining an additional permit, including in an individual client's home. This paperwork reduction will save them time and money, and eliminate the need to deal with extra application fees and paperwork. It will also allow them to provide services for those who out of concern for their health, are unwilling to leave their homes for these services, even as the country reopens.

Again, thank you Chairman Wiggam, Vice Chair Stephens, Ranking Member Kelly, and members of the House State and Local Government Committee for this opportunity to testify on this important piece of legislation. I urge you to approve House Bill 673 and am pleased to respond to any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

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

cc: House State and Local Government Committee Members