

June 13, 2017

William Molden  
1603 Wilson Ave  
Columbus, Ohio 43207

Senators and Representatives,

I am the Director of the Aveda Institute Columbus as well as a licensed Cosmetologist and Instructor in both Ohio and North Carolina. I am writing to express my opposition to SB 129 and HB 189. These bills seriously reduce the number of hours that are required for licensure in all branches of cosmetology in the State of Ohio.

The reasons that I stand in opposition to this are based on many different things. As a professional that has been through 1800 hours of training for my initial Managing Cosmetology license as well as a 1000 hours of Apprentice Instructor training, not to mention the thousands of hours and dollars spent on continuing education over the last 12 years. I see the value in having sufficient time to train in not only the technical services but the many aspects of guest safety training, license portability and career longevity.

Prior to enrolling in Cosmetology, I worked as a salon business manager in a busy, profitable and reputable salon and was surprised by all the potential dangers that you can encounter in a salon. These safety measures were not a topic of day to day discussion or concern. I welcomed the knowledge and best practices that I received throughout my training hours and was amazed at the number of missed steps and the potential hazards that were a daily practice with in the real world of the salon. It troubles me that an environment that does not see the safety of its guests as a major priority could potentially be responsible for the entire training of Salon professionals. The potential safety hazards that would be created is one of my concerns with these bills.

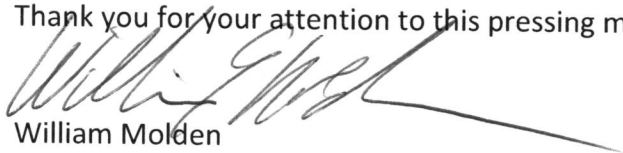
Another place that I believe that these bills fail is by limiting portability of licenses. In my career path, I have had the opportunity to work within my profession in both Ohio and North Carolina. If I would have had a 1000-hour license I would not have had the opportunities for growth with my employer because having a dual licensure would have not been a possibility. One of the recurring conversations that I have with students is the excitement of moving to various states and the opportunities that it creates. By decreasing the number of hours required in Ohio we land lock the future professionals and essentially remove these possibilities for mobility and potential career longevity.

Lastly, I would like to share my extreme concern that reducing the total number of required hours by a third, changes the student experience profoundly. During the final 500 hours of a cosmetology program is the time that the technical skills have become more practiced and the ability to focus on the guest care can be elevated. Being able to focus on recommending retail, discuss re-booking and upselling products, only happens when you have

the comfort in your technical abilities. Having a supported opportunity to practice these soft skills may not make you any more able to pass state board licensure, it does allow you to enter your chosen career path in a sustainable and profitable way.

I appreciate that you have taken time to hear my opposition and I am sure that with just a little research into these bills you will see that they do nothing to promote but undoubtedly limit and undermine a longstanding career path that gives all people the ability to grow into self-sustaining entrepreneurs that keep our society looking and feeling great.

Thank you for your attention to this pressing matter,



William Molden