

Ron West
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Dear Members of the Senate Financial General Government and Agency Review Committee:

I am here on my behalf and on the behalf of all the concerned barbers in the State of Ohio to oppose the concerning part of the budget Bill HB49. I have been a barber for 27 years, and my grandfather was a barber, my wife and son and daughter are barbers. I own a barber college and my barber students have chosen a career to become a licensed barber. They want to work in a barber shop not a salon. The idea of combining the Barber Board with the Cosmetology Board would be a mistake and a grave disservice to both boards. Combined boards would hinder the performance to control and service the two trades efficiently. This bill would also open the doors for cosmetologist and all the chain beauty shops to squash the traditions of the barber trade, which by the way is one of the oldest and most respected trades around to this day. Barbers have been in practice since the beginning of time. Combining boards will not save money. It will only hurt the barber shop and barber school business. Combining licenses will not only degrade the barber profession, but the barber pole, the straight razor shave with mug and brush etc. Income will be taken from schools if one license is to achieve a dual license. Shops can already have a dual license. The only change that can come out of this if the bill is passed is an inefficient board that will lose control of both trades.

Barbers do not want to have the same license as Cosmetologist. Not everyone wants to learn to color hair and do perms. Barbers learn specifically the art of clipper cutting and straight razor shaving, along with the full knowledge and education of sanitation procedures. The barber board is in place to govern barber schools and barber shops and to ensure that the safety, health and wellbeing of the public is protected. This Bill HB49 should be taken into consideration of the real changes that will happen.

Please consider if this bill would really save any money and if it is going to do more harm than good.

On behalf of all barbers in the State of Ohio I am asking you to please consider not combining these two separate trades. If this bill is passed it will be the ruination of the oldest trade in the world. Sanitation and control of diseases will never be the same. All communities in Ohio will be negatively affected. Why try to fix something that is not broken.

Thank you,

Ron West