

Jan 28, 2020

Chairman Wiggam, Vice Chair Stephens, Ranking Member Kelly, and members of the House State and Local Government Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present proponent testimony on HB 399.

As residents of Ohio and your constituents, we **urge your support for HB 399 and SB 245**. This legislation will bring common-sense cosmetology and barber licensing reform to our state and remove unnecessary government barriers to entry into the profession.

This legislation levels the educational playing field. As business owners, our experience has shown that people that graduate after 1,000 hours from public schools perform the same as private school graduates who spend 1,500 hours and are saddled with significant debt. The extra hours and money required don't lead to increased skills, but rather just fulfill a state requirement before taking the state licensing exam. These extra hours are unnecessary and unfair. Other states have been at 1,000 hours of training for cosmetologists since the 1940s and their peoples' hair seems to look just fine.

Classroom experience alone is not enough to be successful and all small businesses train employees - the cosmetology and barbering professions are no different. We need graduates to be safe and competent. More time on school clinic floors with no pay does not better prepare licensees, it just gives more money to the private schools. If the extra hours were really worth it, businesses would pay those graduates more and we don't.

We urge you to support **HB 399 and SB 245**.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on the Cosmetology Reform Act.

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