

# Phil Horvath

To: Dick Stein, Chairman,

My name is Phil Horvath, and I am President and COO at Floyd's 99 Barbershops. I am writing to express my support for HB 277.

Our organization operates 125 barbershops throughout the United States, and we are planning to open 150 locations over the next 4 years and would love to open in Ohio as well. One of the factors we look at when making decisions which states to locate in is the state licensing requirements for stylists and barbers. States with more onerous requirements are ones that we do not prioritize as we know that the labor market is challenging enough without having to also deal with state regulatory licensing barriers.

We need the common-sense reforms put forth in HB 277. Other states have already implemented these reforms. These reforms will allow beauty professionals to begin working, paying taxes and succeeding in a great career and will ensure our industry will prosper in Ohio.

## **Cosmetology hours:**

- 1,000-hour cosmetology programs already exist in other states including CA, NY, MA, TX and VT. STATES HAVE SUCCESSFULLY TRAINED STUDENTS IN 1,000 HOURS FOR DECADES. Why is Ohio keeping students in school longer?
- A study by a third-party research firm that was funded jointly by salon operators and the national beauty school association documents that longer curriculums have no benefit to the students, yet the higher costs of completing a 1,500+-hour curriculum – both tuition and living expenses for the longer programs – result in higher student loan debt, which is a significant burden to these graduates. Pass rates, completion rates, and wages earned upon graduation do not change with the length of the program.
- By reducing minimum hours requirements, students will incur less debt and start earning money more quickly setting the students up for success.

Common-sense licensing standards are critical for sustainable growth of our industry. Please consider these necessary reforms to allow Ohio to be a great place for cosmetologists and barbers to get their education, get licensed, enjoy great careers, and earn a great living. Our industry needs your help.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide the committee with proponent testimony on HB 277.

I urge your support for the bill.

Regards,

**Phil Horvath | President**  
**FLOYD'S 99 BARBERSHOP**

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