

Jessica Isbell

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Chairman Stein, Vice Chair Johnson, Ranking Member Lepore-Hagan and members of the Ohio House Commerce and Labor Committee, My name is Jessica Isbell and I am a licensed cosmetologist. I express my support for HB 277.

I have been a licensed cosmetologist for 15 years. I support this bill because of a multitude of reasons. When I attended school between 2006 and 2008 I was required to work for free for the entirety of the time I was on the senior cutting floor. Haircuts started at \$8 per cut and moved up from there depending on the services. There was no credit applied towards my \$9,600 tuition for each service provided. The school profited from the services provided from the students and was typically unsupervised, only checking the finished product. More hands-on help was desired and needed from the students attending.

I currently train roughly 400 licensees from across southern and central Ohio and see no difference between the future professionals that come from vocational tech schools or those who come from the Beauty Colleges. All licensees are 'equal', no one school is delivering extensive education that is setting themselves apart. My students all usually state that they feel all they were taught was to pass the state boards. This is one reason potential future professionals drop out. Another is due to the length of schooling. I am someone who took a night program that took 2 years to complete, for some that's too long. Night school is a great option because usually people take those because they need to work to support themselves but working and going to school for that length of time is very tough on some people and they don't last. I was 1 of 3 in my night school class and I was the only one who graduated.

We are missing out on great future professionals in this industry that offers great jobs, opportunity for advancement in management, training, recruiting, and marketing careers, just because the amount of time devoted to schooling and inconveniences are rather unattractive. With expensive tuitions, free labor you will provide for the school, unsupervised client services, and tests only being able to be taken in Columbus, these are all reasons that detract people from wanting to go through the program. In many other industries the testing can be taken in local convenient areas. For cosmetology we are only permitted to take a practical and written test at the state board facility in Columbus. To some that can be very challenging. Not to mention that if you fail you have to return back to Columbus

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to retest, and this can happen multiple times. Adapting to today's way of convenient, efficient, and effective learning lifestyles will hopefully move our industry forward and promote more people to want to be in this successful industry.

Chairman Rulli and members of the committee, thank you for allowing me to submit proponent testimony on HB277.