

# Rhoda Olsen

*Chairman Stein, Vice Chair Johnson, Ranking Member Lepore-Hagan and members of the Ohio House Commerce and Labor Committee, my name is Rhoda Olsen and I am Vice Chair of the Great Clips, Inc. Board of Directors. I express my support for HB 277.*

*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.*

**Rhoda Olsen**

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