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Opposition Testimony on HB 542  
Before the Government Committee  
Mr. Eric Darnell Garrett, Sr  
November 22, 2022

Thank you, Chairwoman Roegner, Vice Chair McColley, Ranking Member Craig, and members of the Ohio Senate Government Oversight Committee.

Greetings,

My name is Eric Darnell Garrett, Sr. I'm a disabled Veteran who proudly served with the US Army, 10<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Airborne Unit. Based out of Fort Devens Massachusetts. I served four years (1989 -1993) during the Persian Gulf conflict.

I stand before you today as a proud Husband, (Wife PerShawna) father of two kids (Eryca & Eric II). I was employed for 16 years with the Social Security Administration. In December of 2012, I took another jump, this time into the entrepreneur world, by opening Beyond Expectations Barber College (BEBC), located in Akron Ohio. The business has grown so much, that we recently opened our second location in Youngstown Ohio.

Beyond Expectations Barber College (BEBC) is a, minority owned, vocational school providing students with a superior quality, educational experience. As a licensed Barber and Master Instructor, I - along with an amazing team, empower students with the tools necessary to create a lifetime career in a flexible and exciting, recession-proof field. Beyond Expectations Barber College has become an asset to the community, surpassing all expectations! BEBC exceeds the National Accrediting standards with a 100% Job placement rate, 92% Licensure rate and 100% Graduation rate.

BEBC was created to provide opportunities to enrich lifestyles and inspire others to succeed, serve, and care. Some graduates are ex-felonies who are afforded a 2<sup>nd</sup> chance. This helps to reduce crime by providing past offenders a different path, skills and employability thus reducing the potential for recidivism. We continuously give back to the community. (Free Haircutting events at local schools, churches, homeless shelters and Veteran centers just to name a few: (Example Taft elementary in Youngstown Ohio we cut over 100 haircuts – The smiles on the kids' faces was priceless)

I wanted to share an American success story with you. Of an African American male, who with hard work, prayers from others and God's grace. Made it, to create a platform for others. I believe, if HB542 is passed, it would erase my efforts. **Please vote NO on HB542**



In closing, Life isn't so much about the destination as much as it is the Journey. I encourage my students to enjoy the 1800-hour journey, to gain as much knowledge to carry back to your community to make a positive impact. Thus, creating that more perfect union, thru Psalms 133<sup>rd</sup> .

Thank you for your time,

Respectfully Submitted,



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