

	<p style="text-align: center;">GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT AND REFORM COMMITTEE</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Witness Form</p>

Today's Date 11/28/2022

Name: MARIE M. PANNELL-BIGGS

Address: 2547 LOGGERS Run CT  
COLUMBUS, OH 43235

Telephone: (614) 557-7937

Organization Representing: \_\_\_\_\_

Testifying on Bill Number: HB 542

Testimony:     Verbal     Written     Both

Testifying As:     Proponent     Opponent     Interested Party

Are you a Registered Lobbyist?     Yes     No

Special Requests: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Opposition Testimony to HB 542**  
**Before the Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee**  
**Marie M. Pannell-Biggs**  
**November 30, 2022**

**To: Chairman Roegner, Vice Chairman McColley, Ranking Member Craig and Members of the Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee.**

Greetings, my name is Marie M. Panell-Biggs, and I am writing to offer my views and strong opposition to House Bill 542.

I have been involved in the beauty industry for over 20 years. I have vast amounts of experience in almost every aspect of the beauty industry, including education, editorial work, sales, marketing, retail, and salon/spa operations. In 2013 following my graduation from the Aveda Institute Columbus, I was able to become an entrepreneur and start my own business in the wonderful beauty industry; a business that I am still currently operating. Along with owning and operating my own business, I am also an educator at my alma mater, the Aveda Institute Columbus. This role allows me to educate future professionals on technical skills and business skills to set them up for success upon graduation. Prior to entering the beauty industry, I worked in the accounting industry for 5 years.

I respectfully ask that you consider my experience and credentials in reviewing my testimony and when casting your vote on this bill.

I am strongly opposed to House Bill 542, and I am very concerned about the negative impact this bill would have if passed. The key issues that I am concerned about are as follows:

1. The lack of evidence supporting the reduction of hours. The current structure of 1,500 hours ensures proper safety, sanitation, and overall public health education. How would reducing the hours ensure that students are being properly trained on safety, sanitation, and public health concerns?
2. The destruction of reciprocity with other states. By reducing the Cosmetology hours to 1000 hours, you reduce reciprocity with almost every other state in the country except for five.
3. This bill would negatively impact women, especially black women, women of color, and low-income students. This bill carries with it the burden of small business owners having to provide additional training that they cannot afford to provide. It also creates a higher debt load on students by reducing Pell Grants and Direct Loans. Finally, with fewer hours of training students will not be as prepared and will receive lower expected wages upon graduation.

As a professional and an educator, I get to see firsthand how this bill will have a negative impact on safety, sanitation, skill development, and on the industry as a whole. I am not confident that this industry will continue to thrive in the State of Ohio if this bill is passed.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

/s/ Marie M. Pannell-Biggs

Marie M. Pannell-Biggs