

Ladosha Wright  
Opponent Testimony HB542  
Ohio Senate Government Oversight  
November 30, 2022

Chairwoman Roegner, Vice Chairman McColley, Ranking Member Craig and members of the Ohio Senate Government Oversight Committee, my name is Ladosha Wright. I have been a licensed cosmetologist and salon owner since 2000. I am here to offer strong opposition to Sub HB 542.

It is 2022 and change needs to take place in the beauty and barber industry. In the history of the United States change only happens when people at the bottom rise to the occasion to hold the people at the top accountable to their words. As an African American my ancestors and now me, remain on this continuum of holding the people in power to their words.

My opposition aims to hold this committee accountable to our viable beauty and barber industries. The world around us is advancing. The beauty and barber industries are not. Please note the following: On August 2nd, 2022, the FCC Order 19-72 ordered the replacement of traditional copper-wire landlines, leaving old fashioned landlines in the dust. In 2016, the NIH (National Institute of Health) reported over 1.75 million successful surgeries were performed by robots.

On the continent of Asia, Hong Kong's premiere cosmetology schools, the incomparable globally recognized Vikki Chan Cosmetology Academy and VTC Beauty Schools have grown the study hair, skin, and nails beyond hair coloring, hair straightening, and hair cutting. Their students advance their vocational cosmetology education to broaden their scope of practice in areas such as: Science in Cosmetic Science, Mechanical and Technology Engineering, Nutrition and Healthcare Management, Food Science and Safety, and Cosmetic & Perfumery.

These opportunities afford them to not only work behind the chair, but reinvent the chair, reimagine the products, tools and techniques used to service clients that will take them beyond the chair. The opportunities are infinite.

Meanwhile, here on the continent of North America, in the United States, I, Ladosha Wright stand before the Ohio Senate Government Oversight Committee pleading for the standard of 1500 to 1800 hours of education for cosmetologists and barbers to remain. Per my above example, American cosmetologists and barbers are the low women and men on the totem pole because of belittling bills like Sub HB 542 that stagnates and stifles our industry. The American beauty and barber industry will remain the laughingstock of our industry if we cannot meet the demands the industry calls for and grow in technology so that we can entice future beauty and barber professionals while broadening the scope of practice beyond the chair like others around the world.

Milady's Textbook's almost 100-year dominance in this industry has a grip that muzzles us into a segregated worker bee employee and loft renting career. Who wants to enter such a field? We

would like to grow beyond this segregated bill introduced by people who do not reflect what our industry demands.

We no longer wish to hear stories of people not being able to be served because “we don’t do that kind of hair.” We no longer wish to simply cut, color, alter, and style from behind the chair. Like our fellow professionals in Hong Kong, we want to grow beyond the chair and partner with companies, corporations, professions, and other industries to showcase our advanced skills and contributions to our industry so that we can be a viable part of Ohio’s and America’s global economy. Change can only happen as we at the bottom hold you all at the top accountable to grow our industry. Reducing education further marginalizes women and minorities. I urge your rejection of these amendments.