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**Opposition testimony on Am. Sub. HB542  
Before the Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee  
Ralph Delserone, President, Raphael's School of Beauty Culture  
November 30, 2022**

Chairman Roegner, Vice chair McColley, Ranking Member Craig and members of the Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee. My name is Ralph Delserone and I am the owner of Raphael's School of Beauty Culture with locations in Northeast Ohio.

I am in opposition to the inclusion of HB542 into SB133. The Beauty industry in Ohio is primarily filled with women, many of whom are minority women.

A beauty career provides them with a flexible work schedule, great earning potential, and the ability for a single parent household to raise their families. By reducing cosmetology licensing hours, it will demean the profession, and produce a less job ready graduate.

If hours are reduced, it will have a financial impact on our students. Students across the state will receive around \$6000.00 less in Pell Grants, money which the student does not have to pay back. Students will be forced to take out more student loan debt. Higher Student loan debt can result in higher student loan default rates. This affects both students and schools. Students will have bad credit and schools will have a higher default rate. Students will have difficulty in the obtaining financing on a home or vehicle. If they do get approved for financing, it will be at a much higher interest rate. This default rate can lead to loss of future Title IV Government funding for Schools. Private, Accredited Cosmetology Schools in Ohio already operate in a highly regulated environment. This would add one more unnecessary burden on schools to stay in business.

I am asking you to oppose the inclusion of HB542 into SB133 and help protect our students, the Women and Minority owned small beauty businesses in Ohio. Ohio's reputation is nationally strong in the beauty industry. Do not allow it to become a state with poorly trained students earning low wages. I would also like to extend an invitation for you to visit our school and attend one of our graduation ceremonies to see why the current 1500 training hours are necessary for our student's success. I would like for you to see how we train our students for a great career and how we change lives.

Chairwoman Roegner and members of the committee thank you for the opportunity to provide Opposition testimony on including the provisions of HB542 into SB133. I welcome any questions you may have.

Ralph Delserone  
President of Raphael's Schools

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