



Proponent Testimony on HB 542, as amended

By David Boucher

Dear Chair Roegner,

My name is David Boucher, and I am the President of Bhooshay Enterprises of Ohio, LLC which operates 4 salons doing business as Sport Clips Haircuts with three locations in Ohio - West Chester, South Lebanon and Greene Township. I am also an Independent Area Developer for Sport Clips Haircuts in Central and Southern Ohio where we currently operate 46 stores. I would like to express my support of HB542, as amended.

Lowering the cosmetology program hours requirement to 1,000 hours will lower barriers to entry into the profession and reduce the burden of obtaining a license to thousands, especially disadvantaged populations who are hurt the most by requiring the excessive hours. There is simply no reason NOT to lower the hours. Reducing these hours does not have to change the curriculum or classroom time. The current cosmetology hour breakdown provides 375 hours of academic, 375 hours of flexible learning and 750 hours of clinic time. During those 750 hours, the student pays tuition and receives no compensation, while the school receives a fee for each service.

Among other states, the three most populated states (NY, CA, TX) only require 1,000 hours. It is a proven model, there is no increased risk to the public, and it's much better for students. In 2019, Texas lowered the cosmetology program requirement from 1,500 to 1,000 hours. States have been successfully training cosmetology students in 1,000 hours for decades and Ohio should do the same. Similar to Ohio, where high school programs graduate students in fewer hours than the private schools; Texas public high schools have been training students in 1,000 hours for decades, and typically train about 40% of all Cosmetology students in Texas. Cosmetology schools in Texas easily transitioned as the education providers/textbook publishers already have 1,000 hour programs developed and implemented. The private schools **made the change and employers like us report that they don't see any difference in the preparedness of students**. Across the country, we have had the same training programs for new hires for years, with no regard to whether they graduated from a private school with 1,500 hours or a high school program with 1,000 hours.

While schools have experienced increased demand and have been able to educate more students since hours were lowered in Texas, these same schools can still offer 1,500 hour programs as an option and students can receive Title IV loans for the full 1,500 hours as Title IV loans are available for up to 150% of the state requirements. The state's focus is to ensure the safety of stylists and consumers and that has been accomplished in 1,000 hours for decades in other states.

The impact on Ohio will be similar to what happened in Texas - Private schools and students adjusted quickly and the benefit to students is staggering. They have less debt

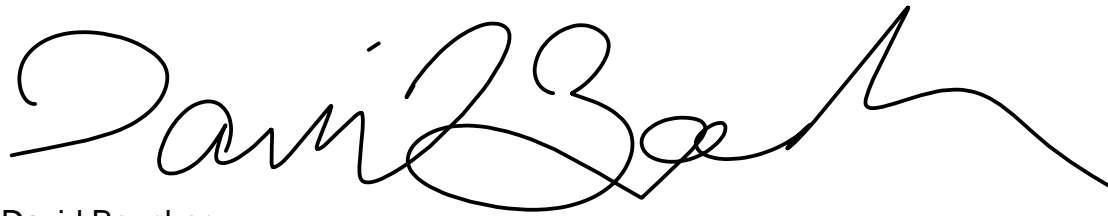
and are earning money several months sooner, paying taxes and supporting themselves and their families.

Thank you for considering my input. I urge your support for the bill.

Respectfully,

David Boucher, Dave@Bhooshay.com, 513-509-1228 Mobile, 513-824-8067 Fax

An Independent Area Developer for Sport Clips Haircuts, Central & Southern Ohio & NKY

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Boucher". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

David Boucher

Independent Area Developer for Sport Clips Haircuts - Central and Southern Ohio