

**Committees:**

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**Representative Jennifer Gross  
The Ohio House of Representatives**

**HB 58 – Rep. Jennifer Gross, Sponsor Testimony: March 14, 2023**

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Chairman Johnson, Vice Chair Manchester, Ranking Member McNally, and members of the Commerce and Labor Committee, thank you for allowing me to provide sponsor testimony for HB 58; the Boutique Services Opportunity Act.

HB 58 is legislation that will reform Ohio’s approach to occupational licensing and create jobs and opportunities for beauty industry professionals, many of whom are women living in rural areas, immigrants, or persons of diverse backgrounds.

While Ohio offers opportunities to earn an honest living, there are still many barriers that prevent professionals from thriving across the state. Ohio overregulates the beauty industry and in doing so blocks competition, shuts out skilled and qualified entrepreneurs, and forces aspiring professionals to incur tens of thousands of dollars of debt. To fix this problem, HB 58 amends and updates our state’s vastly overcomplicated and unclear cosmetology laws. This bill cuts unnecessary regulations for safe practices to create more job opportunities for individuals who only want to braid or blow dry style hair, apply eyelash extensions, remove hair by threading, or apply makeup.

Specifically, the legislation:

- (1) builds on our current definition of boutique services that allows for make-up artistry, shampooing and threading, and appropriately defines braiding;
- (2) adds blow-dry styling, eyelash extensions and wig styling to the definition of boutique services; and
- (3) repeals mandatory training, apprenticeship, continuing education and facility license requirements from the boutique services registration.

Many states across the country have passed similar reforms which created thousands of opportunities for their citizens. That is why this reform is necessary here in Ohio. We are open for business.

Thank you once again for this opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on HB 58. I am more than happy to answer any questions.