



HOUSE COMMERCE & LABOR COMMITTEE – Proponent Testimony, House Bill 58, 3.28.23

Chairman Johnson, Vice Chair Manchester, Ranking Member McNally, and members of the committee, thank you for holding this hearing and for the opportunity to provide testimony. My name is Jeff Dillon, and I am the Ohio Legislative Director for Americans for Prosperity (AFP). As one of the largest grassroots organizations in the country, AFP is driving long-term solutions to some of the country's biggest problems. Our organization, and its thousands of activists across Ohio are dedicated to breaking barriers that stand in the way of people realizing their full potential. Removing these barriers, in whatever forms they take, helps move our society toward one of mutual benefit, where people succeed by helping others improve their lives and by transforming their communities. Accordingly, I would urge this committee to support and pass House Bill 58, the Provider of Boutique Beauty Services Act, sponsored by Rep. Jennifer Gross.

AFP supports HB 58 because this bill is designed to remove barriers for aspiring professionals practicing boutique beauty services, such as makeup application and hair braiding. As Rep. Gross stated in her sponsor testimony, many Ohioans who are currently operating and practicing in this space do so under the table because of overly onerous and expensive licensing requirements. Shifting to a simple registration from a state-issued license will allow more businesses to emerge and provide these services more openly, which will increase competition, thus leading to increased options and quality for customers.

Dozens of states already exempt boutique beauty services from licensing requirements, and Ohio should join them. If a person intends to go into business only to provide these niche beauty services, it is unfair to subject them to acquiring a full cosmetology license at great expense. HB 58 smartly proposes the simple solution of registration with the state, which will provide accountability without being overly burdensome.

AFP would like to thank Representative Gross for reintroducing this straightforward legislation which will help talented, entrepreneurial Ohioans to live up to their full professional potential if the bill is enacted. All members of this committee who served during the 134th General Assembly voted for the previous version of this bill, HB 433, when it passed the House last autumn by a vote of 73 to 19, and I would urge you do so again.

Thank you again, Chairman, for the opportunity to testify today and I will do my best to answer any questions that you or members of the committee may have.

Americans for Prosperity (AFP) exists to recruit, educate, and mobilize citizens in support of the policies and goals of a free society at the local, state, and federal level, helping every American live their dream – especially the least fortunate. AFP has more than 3.2 million activists across the nation, a local infrastructure that includes 36 state chapters, and has received financial support from more than 100,000 Americans in all 50 states. For more information, visit www.AmericansForProsperity.org.