

Proponent Testimony on SB89 (Written)
By Missy Blacker
Before the Government Oversight Committee

Vice-Chair Antani, Ranking Members Hicks-Hudson, and Members of the Government Oversight Committee, my name is Missy Blacker. As a resident of Ohio, a licensed cosmetologist, and your constituent, I **urge your support for SB 89**.

I am here as a long-term and experienced, licensed stylist. My career started in 1998 as a licensed stylist. I've had the opportunity to grow in ways I never imagined. I am an advocate for beauty school students and stylists. I have watched the industry evolve and change. I believe cosmetology licensing and education provide great opportunities. I currently have responsibility in multiple states and hire and manage stylists for our large, salon organization.

Students and stylists would value the ability to move more easily between states. And we do have employees that have been active military or have a partner in the military. The Department of Defense has been effective in providing compacts for other careers. It is a well-established model and if it works for medical professionals, such as nurses and physical therapists, it should work for cosmetology.

Every day we have stylists apply for jobs across state lines and we can't offer them employment. Although reciprocity is an option, it takes time and money. With the Compact, they could begin working immediately and begin earning a living more quickly. This legislation is broadly supported by the industry, cosmetology schools, stylists, cosmetology students, employers, and most importantly, the military.

States still control the license requirements for their state. The Compact provides a comprehensive, fully transparent database with a unique identification for each licensee that allows for rapid surveillance and red flagging of stylists with problems. This allows the state to quickly review the status of each licensee.

Let's make it easier for them to work in more than one state so they can take advantage of opportunities to be more successful, licensed cosmetologists and provide for their family.

As an industry, it should matter to us that our licensees want and need the ability to move between states. Many states make it very difficult for this to happen. I wanted to obtain my license in both West Virginia and Kentucky, but the process was too cumbersome. This is true for most states. SB 89 provides bi-directional mobility. If you have a valid license in another state, Ohio would allow you to work promptly so that you can continue earning a living. We should be welcoming licensed stylists into our state to work and grow their careers!

I urge you to support SB 89. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Missy Blacker