

HB 89 Enter the Cosmetology Licensure Compact

Dear Ranking Member Paula Hicks-Hudson, Vice-Chair Antani, and members of the government Oversight Committee,

My name is Ladosha Wright. I am a 23-year licensed cosmetologist, salon owner, and 10-year industry educator.

From the looks of everyone's head in this room, the meticulous shaved heads, beards, haircuts, and hair color are evident that you all inherently know that barber and beauty education that yields quality matters in this great state of Ohio,

But the introduction of HB 89 implies less education is all one really needs to work on hair. It is to my understanding this bill is borne out of the request to give access to those licensed professionals serving in the armed forces and their spouses who worked licensed in other states to work in Ohio. Historically, in 1967, the United States Armed Forces used the expertise of a highly educated barber from San Diego, California named Dr. Willie Morrow to create, teach, and train on every military base in America and abroad the science of Afro hair and how to cut it to end the racial tensions that were happening during the Vietnam war. The notion of introducing a bill that lowers the standard of education for barbers and cosmetologists without knowing the United States government deemed our 1800-hour standard acceptable by awarding Dr. Morrow verifies the 1800 hours of education in our industry is important and by now, 55 years later, should be raised versus lowered.

Obviously, HB 89 is not really about granting access to work in Ohio as a barber or cosmetologist from another state for people in the military or is it about making both fields easier to become gainfully employed or boosting Ohio's economy. No, this is a bill to maximize political support for a certain party,

This bill does not highlight if it can circumvent the new challenges of the undereducated technician. Allow my testimony to introduce to the current and future Committee Members what this new workforce has in store for you. For starters, how about being taught about your scalp and hair problems from Google searches of pseudo unvetted information, the synonymous use of back combing, twisting, and intertwining of hair strands techniques that they overtly copy and use from our already 1800-hour approved barber and beauty education. And I must mention their latest hair cutting craze that uses an electric lint shaver straight from TikTok to cut hair. A far cry from the monumental efforts and contributions of Dr. Willie Morrow, whose science should be added to the current barber and cosmetology curriculum.

If this bill passes, you all will live to tell the tell of a good old-fashioned educated hair cut with cleaned and sanitized shears, clippers, razors, and a cape.

Understand that if you vote for this bill, it will draw on the parallels of the cost of what poor quality did to NASA's Space Shuttle Challenger. It unfortunately disintegrated with the entire crew on board due to the lack of communication about the use of a poor-quality O-ring that NASA's engineers failed to acknowledge in a report about the dangers of it. May God bless every brave astronaut who lost their lives in one of the most shocking tragedies in American history. Though the parallels are drastic in measure, the devastating results are not. The credibility of the entire industry was shattered. As a proud educated, regulated, licensed professional, I will not let that happen. I would be remiss if I did not share with you and expose what is happening in our industry under the watch of an uninformed and ill-advised politician seeking political support. Undereducated barbers and cosmetologists will significantly hinder the quality of our industry given what and who we are up against.

Keep your hair, beards, and bald heads safe. Please vote no on this issue.

Respectfully submitted,

Ladosha Wright