



*BEFORE THE SENATE GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
PROPONENT TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 89*

Good afternoon, Chairwoman Roegner, Vice Chair Antani, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson, and Members of the Senate Government Oversight Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill 89. My name is Justin Barnes, and I am the Director of Workforce, Small Business, and Technology Policy for the Ohio Chamber of Commerce.

As you may know, for 129 years, the Ohio Chamber has served as the state's leading business advocate, and we represent over 8,000 companies that do business in Ohio. Our mission is to aggressively champion free enterprise, economic competitiveness, and growth for the benefit of all Ohioans. As part of our mission, we seek to make Ohio the best place in the country for businesses to operate and grow.

Senate Bill 89, introduced by Senator Roegner, seeks to enter Ohio into a cosmetology license compact with other states across the country. As with other bills seeking to enter these reciprocity compacts, we support efforts to reduce occupational licensure burdens and support the free flow of labor into Ohio. Such proposals making it easier for entrepreneurs and hardworking individuals to enter the workforce or start their own business help to bolster the competitiveness of Ohio's economic climate and provide increased opportunities for the citizens of our great state.

We thank the Chairwoman for her work on this legislation and are proud to support it. Reducing the complexity and compliance burden of occupational licensure is a key recommendation highlighted in a study published by the Ohio Chamber in October 2022, *Blueprint for Ohio's Economic Future*. In addition to reducing the overall licensure burden where we can, it is important to take steps to modernize governmental processes in a way that eases administrative burdens for small businesses and working professionals seeking occupational licensure in Ohio.

In particular, we want to highlight the recent inclusion into SB 89 of language reducing the overall number of licensure training hours for cosmetologists and barbers to 1,000 each, as opposed to 1,500 and 1,800, respectively. Many of the hours under the current requirements are spent in a classroom and not actually practicing the trade. Lowering the barriers to entry, such as cost and a lengthy licensure process, can prevent individuals from foregoing cosmetology as a viable career path while not sacrificing quality.

We look forward to working with you on this proposal to ensure Ohio's occupational licensure processes are as minimally burdensome as possible, and we anticipate following the provisions of this legislation closely. Thank you again for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this legislation.