



**The Ohio Barber and
Beauty Alliance**

TESTIMONY OF JIM TRAKAS, LEGISLATIVE AGENT FOR THE OHIO BARBER AND BEAUTY ALLIANCE
ON H.B. 158 WEDNESDAY 13 DECEMBER 2023 THE OHIO SENATE GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT
COMMITTEE

Madame Chairwoman, Mr. Vice Chairman, Ranking Member, and Members of the Committee. On behalf of the Ohio Barber and Beauty Alliance representing barbers, cosmetologists, instructors, schools, shops, and salon professionals throughout Ohio, I am pleased to offer proponent testimony and explain several amendments that may be considered today.

We are so very pleased to have worked closely with Rep. Bill Roemer and Rep. Melanie Miller on this legislation. The idea for the legislation came from the State Cosmetology and Barber Board and is a long sought clean up in statute that has been contemplated from the merger of the Boards some years ago, and now attempting to harmonize standards across two distinct and vibrant professions in Ohio that makes up the substantial \$2.9 billion dollar beauty industry in the Buckeye State and takes in over 100,000 licensed professionals.

Rep. Roemer could not have been better to work with, he has a comprehensive understanding of the industry as well as an innate view of how government's role as a regulator can be improved with the passage of H.B. 158, which we hope is amended and approved, and do support the legislation as in the best interest of the industry and state.

In working with the Representative, OBBA did identify a few items in the bill as passed by the House that we brought to his attention. Amendments have been drafted that we strongly support that clarify two areas of concern, and with these amendments, the bill will have even more strength to govern the industry in Ohio.

Amendments that will harmonize and strengthen the bill include an issue that Sen. McColley raised in the first reading of this bill, related to passing standards, that assures a passing rate of at least 75% but cannot be set higher. This is a fair approach and assures a basic competence and understanding in the passage rate. Any less would not adequately train an

individual for a career in barbering, and any more would not be in the best interests of the students. Another amendment clarifies that barber instructors who are not licensed cannot teach actual barbering but can teach related topics that are relevant to the students.

This bill is very helpful to modernize the statute, bring it up to date with the practice associate with the merger, and I do hope that these amendments are considered, included, and the bill favorably recommended so that the Board may be able to efficiently function, which is the ultimate goal of the legislation.

I must say that the 40 or so employees of the Board are excellent, appropriately regulate the profession despite being one of the largest licensing boards in Ohio, are dedicated, consummate professionals and the passage of H.B. 58 as amended will help them to continue to do a terrific job on behalf of the licensed professionals in the beauty industry. Credit this Committee, the bill sponsors for the fine work done here.