



Sponsor Testimony HB189
Cosmetology Reform
Representative Alicia Reece

Chairman Blessing, Vice Chair Reineke, Ranking Member Clyde, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony today on House Bill 189, legislation to address Ohio's burdensome cosmetology licensing laws. HB 189 continues efforts to reform the cosmetology industry started by Senate Bill 213 from the 131st General Assembly.

The beauty salon industry is a growing professional industry that generates \$1.6 billion in annual sales here in Ohio while also contributing to job growth. There are currently more than 129,000 active cosmetology licenses in Ohio.

Not only does Ohio's salon industry provide employment opportunities in a challenging economic environment, it also gives individuals of all backgrounds the ability to start their own businesses. Here in Ohio 47% of salon businesses are owned by minorities, with 77% of Ohio salon businesses being owned by women. There are over 3,500 salon industry establishments in Ohio, which represent more than 23,000 employment opportunities for woman and entrepreneurs.

Several states have recently introduced bills that address many of the reforms contained in HB 189, while others seek to completely deregulate the cosmetology industry. We hope that our bill, which does not completely deregulate the beauty industry, will make Ohio's cosmetology laws the model for other states to follow.

HB 189 will enact much needed reforms to not only ensure safety and professionalism within the cosmetology industry, but also make common sense updates to existing laws and procedures. I am happy to be a joint sponsor on this reform bill with Representative Kristina Roegner, who has already outlined some important measures in this bill.

HB 189 focuses on student success and affordability, allowing new graduates to enter the beauty industry with less debt and a greater ability to repay student loans. Our bill also will facilitate the workforce development pipeline for salons, as well as foster entrepreneurship, making it easier for licensed professionals to start their own businesses. I believe common-sense licensing standards are crucial to sustaining growth for the Ohio cosmetology industry and protecting public safety.

This bill is supported by the Ohio Salon Association, the only business trade association in Ohio representing the interests of salon owners across the state. It is also supported by the Future of the Beauty Industry Coalition, a national coalition of cosmetologists, students, salon owners, manufacturers, publishers, distributors and cosmetology schools.

Again, thank you for your consideration of this important bill that will truly have a profound effect on many in communities across the state. I welcome any questions you may have.

###

