



May 22, 2017

Re: Support for HB 189

Occupational licensing has been an area of intense scrutiny the past few years, and with good reason. The White House White Paper on occupational licensing issued in 2015 documented the many discrepancies between states in requirements for licensure, and the explosion of licensure requirements over the past decades.

There were seventeen states (including Ohio) that had a requirement of 1,000 hours prior to the passage of the 1965 Higher Education Act which opened the federal Title IV loan program for higher education, including cosmetology. Since that time, schools in fifteen states successfully lobbied their state legislatures to increase the requirements for licensure so that today only two states (New York and Massachusetts) are at 1,000 hours. Except that many states have high school cosmetology programs that only require 1,000-1,100 hours to earn a cosmetology license, even in states that require 1,500 hours (including Ohio).

In 2015 a coalition of industry trade associations (which included the American Association of Cosmetology Schools and both of the major cosmetology text book publishers) commissioned a study to determine if there was any difference in the outcomes of programs of differing lengths, from 1,000 hours to 2,000 or more. (Yes, there is that much difference from state to state.) That study documented that there is no benefit to students to attend a program longer than 1,000 hours; yet longer programs serve as a barrier to entry into the profession, which adversely affects minority and low income populations disproportionately.

That is the basis for HB 189. It is not right for the state to mandate that those who wish to practice cosmetology attend a program longer than 1,000 hours. Longer programs cost more, take longer and produce no tangible benefit to the graduates. No difference in graduation rates, pass rates on the state exams, or earnings after graduation. But longer programs result in much higher student debt and delay the entry into the profession where graduates can earn a living and pay taxes.

Gordon B. Logan

Gordon B. Logan
CEO and Founder

Note: Sport Clips has 56 franchised, locally-owned and operated locations in Ohio, employing approximately 600 licensed cosmetologists.