

**Proponent Testimony on HB 189 Before the
House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee**

By

Tasha Sheipline

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Chairman Blessing, Vice Chair Reineke, Ranking Member Clyde and members of the House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on the cosmetology reforms contained in HB 189, jointly sponsored by Rep. Kristina Roegner (R-Hudson) and Rep. Alicia Reece (D-Cincinnati). My name is Tasha Sheipline and I am a cosmetology instructor in Lima, Ohio.

As an instructor I am dedicated to giving students the educational experiences that will support them in their future careers. Cosmetology is one of the most versatile industries as it knows no gender or racial boundaries. A cosmetology license can be transferred to any state or country. This great industry serves all people and can be practiced by all people.

I would like to highlight a few of the provisions in HB 189 that are pertinent to continuing to ensure that cosmetology education is equitable to all:

- Cosmetology hours should be reduced to the proposed 1000 hours. As a career technical instructor our schools can count academic classed for hours. If you deduct those academic hours from the current 1500 hours you will see that our students are only taking approximately 1125 or less of cosmetology hours to sit for their license exam and are highly successful. As an instructor I can attest that students who complete their hours at this reduced rate experience the same opportunity for job placement and wage earning potential as their peers who have completed a 1500 hour program. Cosmetology is a great field and can offer a great opportunity for sustainable income. Reducing hours provides equity between public and private schools. Additionally it offers students lower cost tuition and a quicker turnaround for displaced workers.
- Pre-graduate testing for students offers flexibility. Ohio has offered high school students and adult learners alternate pathways for obtaining a diploma. These programs utilize the Work Keys assessment in conjunction with an industry credential. Programs need to be flexible and eliminate barriers so that students can obtain the credentials they need to be successful Ohio workers. By allowing students to apply for examination prior to the conclusion of their program we can decrease waiting time and hasten their transition into the workforce immediately upon program completion. Additionally, we help to support differentiated learning by allowing students to take the exam when they are ready and not necessarily when told they should. Many other professions offer this option with great success.
- Distance learning has become an integral part of education. This will only continue to increase as the two worlds of technology and education merge together. Most students

would say that time and money are their two main barriers when it comes to the pursuit of higher education. Distance learning is the natural choice as it works to reduce schools costs and offers students the opportunity to work from anywhere. This translates to lower tuition cost and increased flexibility for students. The proposed bill seeks to increase the use of distance learning for students and eliminate the current 6% maximum.

Cosmetology schools, specifically career technical schools, often struggle to keep up with hour mandates. When students are pulled from classes for any type of standardized testing the time they spend out of the class cannot be counted. Throughout the course of a year students may be removed for OGT, ACT, End of Course exams, and WebXam. As these tests are state mandated students can quickly fall behind in hours. Distance learning offers students a differentiated learning experience that does not punish them for complying with Ohio Department of Education requirements.

There are many other provisions in this bill that I support, but I appreciate the opportunity to highlight the portions of **HB 189** that directly impact students. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written proponent testimony.

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