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Proponent Testimony on HB 399

Before the House State and Local Government Committee

Wednesday, January 29, 2020

Chairman Wiggam, Vice Chair Stephens, Ranking member Kelly and members of the House State and Local Government Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written **proponent testimony on HB 399**.

The above organizations support the reduction in hours required for licensure in Ohio from 1,500 to 1,000. This is a common sense reform that lowers the barriers to entry into our profession to a level that has been demonstrated to be sufficient to protect the health and safety of the public and to prepare students for entry level positions in our industry.

All of our companies operate in multiple states and we find no difference in the performance of stylists who graduate from 1,500 hour schools and those who graduate from 1,000 hour schools. None of our salons have different training programs for states with 1,000 hours or those with 1,500 hours.

- Longer beauty school programs impose a significant barrier to entry for disenfranchised populations (minorities and lower income populations) who seek a cosmetology career – especially working moms.
- Study by third-party research firm that was funded jointly by salon operators and the national beauty school association documents that longer curriculums have no benefit to the students, yet the higher costs of completing a 1,500-hour curriculum – both tuition and living expenses for the longer programs – result in higher student loan debt, which is a significant burden to these graduates.
- Graduation rates and passing rates on state-administered exams are not improved by requiring more curriculum hours.
- Graduates of longer programs earn no more than graduates of 1,000 hour programs.

1,000 hours has been proven successful in other states for decades (NY and MA), as well as in many high school programs (175 Texas high school programs, for example). In the past two years, both Texas and Vermont have

lowered hours to 1,000 from 1,500. This allows aspiring cosmetologists to more quickly learn the trade and start earning money to start paying taxes and providing for their families.

Reducing the number of curriculum hours to 1,000 from 1,500 reflects the nationwide trend in moving cosmetology students (and other occupations) from redundant and expensive classroom instruction into the workplace. Recent graduates of cosmetology programs, like graduates of other courses of study including law and engineering, must continue to develop their skills in the workplace as they progress in their careers. This is better done in the real world environment of the salon than in a school clinic.

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