

Opponent Testimony on HB 399
Before the House State and Local Government Committee
By: Carly Zehner
2/18/2020

My name is Carly Zehner, I have been a licensed barber for 15 years and a licensed barber instructor for 8 years in the state of Ohio. This letter is to voice my opposition on changing the hours required to get licensed in the state of Ohio. I have worked in this field and been an educator for long enough to know for a fact that taking away hours is a terrible idea. In no way are students ready to become a barber or business owner in less than 1800 hours, sometimes the 1800 hours isn't even enough for them to thrive in this field. The sanitation alone, public safety requirements and time it takes to hone their skills should never even be considered to be shortened. It is absurd and ridiculous. Why would taking education away be a good idea?? It will create underdeveloped barbers that will be in the field with inadequate training.

I have trained, educated and mentored hundreds of students and take pride in watching them thrive while still keeping close contact with many as they enter this chapter of their careers, I have been asked more times than I can count by graduated students to do continuing education with them months to years after they have received their Ohio barber license. I can attest to the fact that I was NOT ready to take on a barber career right out of school. I was fortunate to work next to some amazing barbers that helped usher me thru my growing pains and learning. We teach our students that your a "forever student " in barbering and in life. This bill goes against everything I strive to do as an educator and it is just plain insulting to be honest. What is the benefit of taking education away? The answer to that question is nothing, there is nothing beneficial to the future barbers and entrepreneurs of Ohio if you takes their education away!

Thank you, Carly Zehner