

**Opposition Testimony on HB 399  
Before the House State and Local Government Committee  
Jill Hawkins Mitchell  
February 19, 2020**

**To: Chairman Wiggam, Vice Chair Stephens, Ranking Member Kelly and members of the House State and Local Government Committee.**

My name is Jill Hawkins Mitchell and I obtained my Cosmetology License through the State of Ohio in October, 2007. Since obtaining my license, I have worked as a trainee, an assistant to a cosmetologist with 20+ years of experience, a hair stylist in both the states of Ohio and Michigan, a salon and spa director and manager and a mentor to newly licensed cosmetologists entering into the salon and spa industry.

Immediately after I completed my 1,500 hours of training, I entered a training program with a salon in Columbus, OH. My 1,500 hours of cosmetology training prepared me with a foundation to enter into the salon and spa industry. I am strongly opposed to reducing the required cosmetology training hours to 1,000.

I strongly oppose HB 399, and would like to take this time to highlight a couple of reasons:

**Reciprocity limitations**

In 2009, I was presented with an opportunity to work with a prominent team of hair and makeup designers in the beauty industry in the state of Michigan. Due to the 1,500 hours of training I received in Ohio, I was able to obtain a cosmetology license through the state of Michigan without having to seek out further training hours. If I had obtained my license through the state of Ohio with only 1,000 hours, I would NOT have been able to take advantage of this crucial career opportunity. The difficulty of obtaining a license in a different state that requires more hours of training will prove to be a hindrance to beauty professionals seeking opportunities which may lie outside of their licensed state. In the case of 1,000 training hours being the requirement, Ohio licensees would only be able to use their hours toward a license in New York, Massachusetts, Texas and Vermont.

**Value of Education**

Education is our most valuable resource and our Cosmetology Licenses are sometimes our only credential. Decreasing the required education to obtain such licensing would certainly move our industry backwards. The power and influence of the beauty industry should not be underestimated. We are a high touch business and make contact with thousands of clients through our careers. The impact we have on our local communities is greater than you would ever imagine. For these reasons and many others, I am strongly opposed to HB 399.