



**Representative Lisa Sobecki
House District 45**

**House Bill 542 Sponsor Testimony
Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee**

Chair Roegner, Vice Chair McColley, Ranking Member Craig, and members of the Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee: thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on Substitute House Bill 542 with my joint sponsor, Representative Bill Roemer. House Bill 542 was favorably reported by the House Commerce and Labor Committee 11-0, and passed the Ohio House 88-1.

House Bill 542 harmonizes and matches license requirements for Ohio's barbering and cosmetology code. House Bill 542 brings parity to the two similar professions both under the jurisdiction of the State Cosmetology and Barber Board while keeping each profession under separate code sections, which was the concern of many advocates and practitioners.

One example of the improvements to the Ohio Revised Code under House Bill 542 is to lower the minimum age for barbering school to 16. Under current law, a young Ohioan wanting to begin their training as a cosmetologist can start at age 16. However an Ohioan wanting to begin their training as a barber has to wait till age 17. This was brought to my attention by a public school in my district who advocated for a change on behalf of scores of students who are in this exact situation. House Bill 542 lowers the minimum age for barbering school from 17 to 16 to match the cosmetologist school.

Additionally, the need for a technical amendment was brought to the attention of Representative Roemer and myself. Currently, barber school licenses expire on August 31, 2022 whereas cosmetology school licenses expire on January 31, 2023. House Bill 542 eliminates the separate barber school license and temporarily extends those licenses that expires on August 31, 2022 to January 31, 2023 for administrative ease. In an abundance of caution in case House Bill 542 is not passed and enacted in time, we suggest adjusting the dates to August 31, 2024 and January 31, 2025. According to the Cosmetology and Barber Board, that is end of the next licensing cycle and they would be supportive of the amendment. We are willing to work with the Chair and the Ranking Member on the amendment.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony. I am happy to provide any questions from the committee.