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Dear Chairman Roegner, Vice Chair McColley, Ranking Member Craig and members of the Small Business and Economic Opportunity Committee:

I am writing this letter today on behalf of Dayton Barber College and those within the Barbering Industry urging you to oppose Sub House Bill 542- specifically the recently added amendment. There are numerous reasons that I feel this bill needs to be opposed but my main concerns are in regards to how detrimental it could be for both the students, the Instructors and the individual Barber Colleges within the State of Ohio. Here are just a few of my concerns that I wish you to take into consideration before you consider passing this language:

- **Barber Student Pell Grants:** If you did reduce the Barber Training hours to just 1000 hours this would eliminate a large portion of the Pell Grants that our current students receive. We as a school could not afford to reduce the cost of the program especially since we are the only accredited school within our area and approximately \$6000.00 below other schools. We do not offer student loans at our school which is why we have been able to offer the best reasonable rates for our students, but we would either lose students who could not afford to come out of pocket \$3000-\$4000 or be forced to start offering student loans which would elevate our program costs even more. I know most people just think by reducing the hours required we should just cut the program cost but again you must understand every institution has their standard costs which don't change (rent, payroll, supplies, etc) and with our program already on the lower end we can't just assume this reduced program would bring in more students so this could put some private schools in danger of closing.
- **Cosmetology Students to Barber Pell Grants:** if you reduced the Barbering hours to 1000 and the Cosmetology/ Barber License program to under 600 hours that would eliminate the ability for any student to receive a Pell Grant, at all. That would mean any cosmetologist who wanted to get their Barbers License would have to come out of pocket for the entire program which I feel would deter them from the program all together.
- **Reducing the Barbering License Training to just 1000 hour safety concerns:** I do not understand how anyone could think that just 1000 hours of Barbering Training would be sufficient enough in regards to ensuring Customer Satisfaction, Customer Safety in regards to the use of chemicals, shears, straight razors, and electrical tools along with maintaining the proper level of Sanitation and Infection Control Standards. I am working with Barber Students on a daily basis and with the current curriculum of Theory, Practical & Clinic hours most students are just starting to grasp the basics of the Barbering field by 1000 hours and I do not believe they would be sufficiently prepared to

go into a Barber Shop at that time. I also feel the reduced hours would make schools conform to a rushed Theory curriculum trying to present 21 Chapters of Milady 6th Edition courses from our current 52 weeks of training into approximately 28.5 weeks at 1000 hours. We currently offer every student the curriculum chapters twice during their training which has been so beneficial in the retention of the material for the student but if you were to pass this bill reducing their hours to just 1000 it would eliminate that and now students would barely be able to complete every chapter just once before taking their State Board Exam. For this reason alone, I do not feel that they would be beneficial to the students or instructors at all from a reduction in training hours.

- **Chemicals added to the Barber Practical Exam October 2021:** With the State Barber Board adding chemicals back onto the State Board Exam for the first time since approximately 1999, students are already having issues getting the proper amount of hands-on training for permanent waves, colors and relaxers to prepare them for their State Board exam and the reduction of hours by almost half would hurt them even more. I think this could lead to licensure rates dropping significantly for first time examiners and create a need for additional students to retake their board exams.

I understand that over the years many things have been discussed regarding the Barbering field and this might be just one more bill to most people but to those of us who are living within this field daily it means way more. Especially at a time where we are facing a pandemic that has not allowed students to practice a significant part of their training due to customers wearing face masks which is the use of a straight razor and the application of facial services within the school.

So again, I understand there are things that might need restructured, revised or clarified within the industry but I do not feel that reducing the hours of training by almost half would be beneficial to our students, schools or the customers who would patronize barber shops where barbers are not sufficiently trained within the field.

Thank you,
Malisa Helenberger
Director of Admissions
Dayton Barber College