



November 28, 2022

The Honorable Kristina Roegner
Chairman, Ohio Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee

RE: Letter of Support for Amended House Bill 542

Dear Chairman Roegner:

On behalf of the Ohio Chamber of Commerce and our 8,000 members, I write to you in support of Amended House Bill 542; legislation that now includes an amendment that would reduce the number of licensure training hours for cosmetologists and barbers to 1,000 each as opposed to 1,500 and 1,800, respectively.

The Ohio Chamber regularly tackles issues related to workforce development and business overregulation. Many times, our members express grave concern with the struggle to find qualified workers and that government regulations impede their ability to grow. An example of this is in the private cosmetology school setting where there is a requirement that an individual have 1,500 training hours before being able to sit for the state board examination. Many of these hours are spent in a classroom and not actually practicing the trade.

Am. HB 542 will bring about common-sense reform that will translate into individuals achieving licensure more expeditiously. Salon owners throughout the state continue to cite staffing shortages and difficulty finding qualified employees that are not saddled with high student loan debt as chief concerns. Shortened cosmetology programs may translate into lower tuition costs and, in many cases, lower student loan debt. Lowering the barriers to entry, such as cost and a lengthy licensure process, can prevent individuals from foregoing cosmetology as a viable career path while not sacrificing quality.

Lastly, many salon owners are small businesses who already face a tremendous amount of regulation and red tape. The passage of Am. HB 542 will send a clear message to these entrepreneurs that Ohio understands the challenges they face and wants to remove barriers to individuals entering this industry.

It is for these reasons that we ask you to support Am. HB 542. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding our support of Am. HB 542 at kboehner@ohiochamber.com or 614-228-4201.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kevin Boehner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kevin Boehner
Director, Small Business and Workforce Policy