



SENATE SMALL BUSINESS & ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY COMMITTEE – Proponent
Testimony, SB 133 203, May 5th, 2021

Chairman Rulli, Vice Chair Lang, Ranking Member Sykes, and members of the committee, thank you for holding this hearing and for the opportunity to provide testimony.

My name is Jeff Dillon, and I am the Ohio Legislative Director for Americans for Prosperity (AFP). As one of the largest grassroots organizations in the country, AFP is driving long-term solutions to some of the country's biggest problems. Our organization, and its thousands of activists across Ohio, are dedicated to breaking barriers that stand in the way of people realizing their full potential. Removing or reducing these barriers, in whatever forms they take, helps move our society toward one of mutual benefit, where people succeed by helping others improve their lives and by transforming their communities. Accordingly, I am here to express support for Senate Bill 133.

While AFP Ohio ultimately believes that government should focus on less onerous and more effective oversight of such professions as cosmetology and barbering than government licensure, SB 133 makes improvements over the status quo for these occupations to be more accessible career paths.

Changes that would occur with enactment of SB 133 include:

- Reduces training for barbers, cosmetologists, hair designers, and related professions by hundreds of hours
- Allows opportunities to take government mandated examinations ahead of completing training hours
- Consolidating and cosmetology licensing requirements to remove some redundancy
- License by endorsement procedures for those wishing to use out of state licenses to practice in Ohio

Today, licensing burdens reduce employment opportunities for many Ohioans while cutting off rungs on the economic mobility ladder for people trying to improve their lives. A recent

national [study](#) found that current governmental licensing barriers already cost Ohio over 67,750 jobs, \$209 million in deadweight economic losses, and over \$6 billion in misallocated resources annually. In other words, people are spending more than they would have, and on different things, than if Ohio's many government licensing laws weren't creating barriers to needed products and services.

Research also shows that in more onerously licensed states, [entrepreneurship](#) rates are lower among low-income residents, [recidivism](#) rates are higher for ex-offenders, and other unintended consequences such as [increased crime rates](#) occur due to decreased employment opportunities.

Ohioans, and those wishing to move to Ohio to contribute to our economy, deserve the dignity of personal choice as consumers and the ability to support their families without undue government burdens as they seek fulfilling work. Today many government occupational licensing requirements are anti-competitive, needlessly burdensome, and oftentimes [ineffective](#) at addressing public health and safety concerns. As we continue to drive internal occupational licensing reform, we urge you to please support SB 133 to reduce some of the burdens Ohio's aspiring cosmetologists and barbers face.

Thank you again Chairman Rulli for the opportunity to provide testimony, and I'm happy to do my best to answer any questions the committee might have at this time.

Americans for Prosperity (AFP) exists to recruit, educate, and mobilize citizens in support of the policies and goals of a free society at the local, state, and federal level, helping every American live their dream – especially the least fortunate. AFP has more than 3.2 million activists across the nation, a local infrastructure that includes 36 state chapters, and has received financial support from more than 100,000 Americans in all 50 states. For more information, visit www.AmericansForProsperity.org.

