

Opposition Testimony On SB 133

Before the Senate Small Business and Economic Opportunity Committee

Date: 5/12/21

To Chairman Rulli, Vice Chair Lang, Ranking Member Sykes, and members of the Small Business and Economic Opportunity Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide opposition testimony today on SB 133.

My name is Wezlynn VanDyke Davis. I've been an advanced licensed esthetician for 13 years and I own a small business. I was very involved in representing licensees and small female owned businesses last GA and again this GA. I serve clients, operate a business, I'm a consultant to other professionals, a leader in my field, and have held an advanced license in my industry for 10 years.

My opposition testimony focuses on the following issues:

1. A reduction in hours will lead to a reduction in access to Pell grants for students.
2. Early testing.
3. Opposition against 1000 hour mandate from top international leaders in beauty education
4. Loss of reciprocity with all neighboring states and nearly all other states.
5. Cosmetology licenses encompass 3 licenses that can be obtained separately - reducing hours will not allow all three disciplines to be adequately taught.

Pell Grants

Because Pell grants are directly tied to clock hours, a reduction in these hours will lead to a reduction in Pell grant access for students. Many of our students would simply not be able to attend school without access to Pell grants.

Early Testing (data provided by AACCS):

- There is no data pertaining to the amount of vocational students who test out, get their license, and go into the industry.
- Only 10 states allow early testing.
- 6 out of 10 states will only allow the written exam to be completed early.
- 6 out of 10 states require completion of all hours before practical testing.
- None of these states allow for early testing as soon as halfway through a program.

Leaders in education oppose a 1,000 hour requirement

Sandra L. Bruce, General Manager for Milady, provided a letter stating Milady **respectfully resigned from the FBIC** in December of 2016 after the coalition announced their recommendation for a standard of 1,000 hours to be a licensed cosmetologist.

Robert Passage, Chairman and CEO for Pivot Point International provided a letter stating the AIR Report supporting FBIC claims for a 1,000 hour national standard is flawed and lack critical information. Pivot Point also **withdrew their company's support** of the FBIC after the FBIC made the decision to move forward with a national 1,000 hour mandate.

Loss of reciprocity

SB 133 would eliminate reciprocity with all neighboring states. I have provided a full breakdown as a supplement to this testimony. In short, no neighboring state would have as low of a threshold as Ohio.

West Virginia - 1800 hours

Indiana - 1500 hours

Kentucky - 1500 hours

Pennsylvania - 1250 hours

Michigan - 1500 hours

Other issues:

- Testing location does not need to be legislated
- We already have the ability to educate online - this does not need to be legislated.

In closing: Elimination of our optional advanced licenses is nothing short of an unjustifiable and indefensible act against our licensees and against the up and coming student- which happens to be a female dominated industry thriving in our small businesses. Per the U.S. Census Bureau 98.8% of salon industry firms (salons and spas) have only one establishment and 0.2% have multi unit establishments. SB 133 was developed by and is supported by the 0.2% percent. I am here representing the 98.8% small female owned single establishment, pleading with you once more to put a stop to this extremely detrimental legislation. I am happy to answer any questions you may have. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Wezlynn VanDyke Davis

Founder, The Beauty Lab