



SMALL BUSINESS AND
ECONOMIC OPPURTUNITY
COMMITTEE

Witness Form

Today's Date 5/19/21

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Testifying on Bill Number: SB 133

Testimony: Verbal Written Both

Testifying As: Proponent Opponent Interested Party

Are you a Registered Lobbyist? Yes No

Special Requests: _____

Proponent Testimony on SB 133
Before the Senate Small Business and Economic Opportunity Committee
By Tony Fiore, Executive Director, Ohio Salon Association
May 19, 2021

Chairman Rulli, Vice Chair Lang, Ranking Member Sykes and members of the Senate Small Business and Economic Opportunity Committee. I'm Tony Fiore and serve as the Executive Director of the OSA.

You are hearing from many new proponents today, but I am following up from my previous testimony to set the record straight on a few issues:

- 1) Proponents and bill sponsors, not opponents, have offered to consider alternative proposals from those who think the status quo is fair and no reforms are necessary.
 - a. Four years ago your colleagues Rep. Roegner along with former Rep. Alicia Reece along with then Senator, now Rep. Kris Jordan and former Sen. Charleta Tavares scheduled an interested parties meeting in which many of the opponents you heard from last week were invited. However, one hour before the meeting sent a notice declining and stated they would not participate in such negotiations.
 - b. In September of 2018, Rep. Bill Seitz scheduled an IP meeting and opponents attended, but as of today we are still waiting for any changes they would wish to have made in the legislation. Opponents like things just the way they are in Ohio.
 - c. Proponents are reasonable - Opponents stated it would take about 6 to 9 months to make the necessary adjustments and applications with the U.S. Department of Education. Proponents would not have no problem with the lower hour programs starting in the fall of 2022 giving all public and private schools more than a year to prepare and market such programs if SB 133 passes and is signed by the Governor before the summer recess.
- 2) Today students have no option but to take the 1,500 hours required for cosmetology (in some cases still 1,800 hours) and 1,800 hours required for barbering.
 - a. Opponents have acknowledged that their programs higher than 1,000 hours could continue to exist and student financial aid, including Pell Grants, would be available for them.
 - b. If 600-800 hours is enough time for our medical professionals to train future paramedics to save our lives how can 1,000 hours not be enough for cosmetology and barber skills to be taught, especially when 750 hours (approx. \$9,870) is unpaid clinic time for cosmetologists?
 - c. The opponents argument is keep state mandated hours higher because educators and schools that oppose lowering hours know what is best for future licensees. The same opponents have no accountability to assist them in getting a job post-graduation once all tuition is paid and student debt becomes due and payable or when a salon owner has to garnish wages to pay such student loans.
 - d. The bottom line - every day that legislation like SB 133 does not pass takes away the economic opportunity of every student no matter what walk of life they come from to begin building their career. If the legislature and Governor reduce the 500 hours of free labor for cosmetology students (or approximately \$6,500 in lost wages) or 800 hours of free labor (or approximately \$12,500 in lost wages) for barber students. Both amounts would go a long way to pay off or down that same student debt.
- 3) Mr. Chairman I also want to publically apologize to all of the existing cosmetology and barber students since we have been unable to pass this legislation for the past 6 years. Why? Students may be here receiving "flexible" credits toward their state required cosmetology or barbering hours from their school and not receiving training that will help them be successful in the beauty industry. They also are not being paid for all of these hours the state still requires in unpaid labor on clinic floors across the state.

It is in your hands to decide who is advocating in the best interests of students, licensees, salons, spas, barbershops and both public and private cosmetology and barber schools.

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee thank you for the opportunity to provide additional proponent testimony on SB 133. I would be happy to answer any questions.