

Senate Bill 133 Cosmetology Licensure

Opposition Testimony

Ohio Senate Small Business & Economic Opportunity Committee

May 12, 2021

Chairman Rulli, Vice Chair Lang, Ranking Member Sykes, and members of the Ohio Senate Small Business & Economic Opportunity committee,
Thank you for holding this hearing and for the opportunity to provide testimony.

I am Brenda L. Holsey, I am the President of the Ohio Association of Beauticians, Inc. The Ohio Association of Beauticians is an African American cosmetologist/barber association, state chartered in 1934, and the oldest Ohio beauty association. The OAB has been an active participant in opposing recent attempts to reduce cosmetology education.

Senate Bill 133 seeks to significantly reduce the number of clock hours required for licensure as a cosmetologist/barber from 1,500/1,800 hours to 1000 hours. Currently a newly licensed cosmetologist/barber in the State of Ohio can seek licensure in 30 states without the need of investing in any additional education. If SB133 becomes law, that same newly licensed cosmetologist/barber would lose reciprocity with most of the country.

The proponents of this bill claim that the current licensure requirements are over burdensome and that lowering hour requirements will lead to less debt. No one will argue that less debt is a bad thing, however SB133 doesn't make cosmetology or barbering education any cheaper, it simply removes half of the education.

Education time in the classroom or clinic to learn the safety, sanitation and technical skills essential to be employment ready upon graduation. In many cases, our cosmetology licenses are our only credential, elimination of education required to obtain licensure, devalues our licensure and dilutes our chosen profession.

My colleagues and I feel strongly that the current requirements for cosmetology training provides the necessary foundation to enter and be successful in the salon industry.

The legislation introduced to "address overly burdensome cosmetology and barbering licensing law" is an attack on professional licensure in the cosmetology and barbering industry and on anyone who chooses to seek advanced licensure.

While this legislation is set forth as economically favorable for cosmetologists and barbers, it is actually an effort by a non-profit corporation that is a front for big salon business to control the market for cosmetologists and barbers.

Unfortunately, in reducing Barbering and Cosmetology to 1000 hours we would find that we have succeeded in eliminating Ohioans' reciprocity with all contiguous states, including Pennsylvania.

The members of the Ohio Association of Beauticians, Inc., the Ohio Barber and Beauty Alliance, and members of the Ohio Association of Cosmetology Schools, we stand together in opposition to Senate Bill 133.

Support the beauty industry and beauty professionals by making sure that education and licensure standards are not lowered in order for a few large companies to make a few more bucks. Protect my profession.

Respectfully,
Brenda L. Kynard-Holsey
President
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