



May 14, 2021

Michael Rulli, Chair
George Lang, Vice Chair
Vernon Sykes, Ranking Minority Member

Senate Small Business and Economic Opportunity Committee
Re: Opposition to SB 133, Revise Cosmetologist and Barber Law

Dear Members of the Small Business and Economic Opportunity Committee,

The Youngstown-Warren Regional Chamber represents 2,400 members who employ 150,000 residents throughout the Mahoning Valley. We work with government officials to advocate for economic development policies that help make the Valley an ideal place to live, learn, work, and play.

For the fourth time in six years SB 133 seeks to reduce the required hours of initial instruction for a barber, cosmetologist, or hair designer license. In some cases, these requirements may be reduced by up to 80 percent. The bill seeks to create a process under which a Cosmetology student may take the written portion of the licensing examination before the student has completed the training hours required for a license.

The Youngstown-Warren Regional Chamber opposes this bill on several fronts. The current number of hours needed to obtain a Cosmetology degree allows three separate career paths for professionals in the state of Ohio. These hours provide students with a solid foundation in theory, as well as the practical and technical experiences to ensure proper public safety with respect to handling chemicals and individuals.

Current educational standards provide rigorous training for proper sanitation and sterilization, both of which have proven critical during this pandemic. It is why many licensed professionals were able to return to employment in May of 2020 without missing a beat. These standards also provide a pathway to a higher quality of life through educational funding and competitive wages.

Proponents of SB 133 like to compare a licensed Cosmetologist to those who work in a kitchen or realty office. We argue a Cosmetologist is far more involved with the human body than either of those comparisons, especially when looking at the tools and personal touch necessary to work on individuals. We also question in what situation is *less* education considered a positive advancement for the greater good? Independent owners and operators find students from Pennsylvania, a state that requires 1250 hours of training, come to Ohio because they *want* additional training. Owners and operators who have chosen to educate current and future Cosmetologists have done so with the utmost respect for safety and professionalism, as well as the industry.

Cosmetology schools have empowered primarily female and minority learners for generations, providing gateways for upward mobility. SB 133 will do more damage than good for those seeking these paths.

There is nothing common sense about this bill. The Youngstown-Warren Regional Chamber strongly opposes SB 133 and urges you to vote against passing this bill out of Committee.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ryan McNaughton".

RYAN MCNAUGHTON, M.Ed., M.A., *Vice President, Government Affairs*

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