

**Proponent Testimony on SB133 (Written)**  
**By Betsy Mills**  
**Before the Senate Small Business and Economic Opportunity Committee**  
**On Wednesday, May 19, 2021**

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Chairman Rulli, Vice Chair Lang, Ranking Member Sykes and members of the Senate Small Business and Economic Opportunity Committee, my name is Betsy Mills. As a resident of Ohio and your constituent, **I urge your support for SB133.**

I am proud to be a licensed stylist and leader. I came from a family of five and my parents immigrated from Greece. We struggled and I value the opportunities I have had in my career. I have worked in full-service salons, walk-in salons and large organizations. I have also held a license in Indiana. I have supervised licensed stylists in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Iowa, Michigan and Kentucky. I have never been able to identify any significant skill differences in stylists based on hours.

SB 133 seeks to: (1) focus on cosmetology student success in entering the beauty industry with less debt and greater ability to repay student loans; (2) create job opportunities by reducing barriers related to time and hours and (3) reduce the amount of unnecessary regulations and make it easier for Ohioans to begin or expand their careers. **From small business owners to aspiring cosmetologists, mostly women and minorities, this legislation would remove significant barriers to success. In Ohio, 47% of salon establishments are owned by minorities and 77% of those businesses are owned by women.** I believe licensing reform will build a stronger industry by reducing barriers and supporting job creation.

The **license reciprocity** language creates license mobility and allows easy transfer of a license to Ohio. It will help minimize the tendency of stylists to drop out of the industry or go underground due to a lengthy license transfer process. It may allow easier movement and increase career opportunities. Three states, Arizona, Florida and Illinois have passed similar legislation. Let's welcome stylists into our great state!

**SB133** also lowers the Ohio **requirement for cosmetology licensure hours**. Independent research and successful models in New York and Massachusetts show there is no justification

for requiring more than 1,000 hours of education for cosmetology or barber licensure. I believe that the reduced hours will address the demand I see in the career school programs. There is demand and schools have limited “seats.” With a reduction from 1,500 to 1,000 hours, cosmetology programs could provide education to 50% more students. This would attract more professionals who are seeking a career that will allow them to earn a living more quickly.

Another area of the bill focuses on requiring **pre-graduate testing** for public and private school students. Six state currently allow pre-graduate testing. This change not only gives students the opportunity to get additional training if they fail but allows graduates to be licensed immediately. Upon graduation, they can move into the workforce sooner to earn wages, pay taxes, and begin repaying loans. In addition, the bill authorizes distance learning to provide maximum flexibility for students to learn when and where it is convenient for them.

**I urge you to support SB 133.** Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Betsy Mills