

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

Chairman Rulli, Vice Chair Lang, Ranking Member Sykes and members of the Senate Small Business and Economic Opportunity Committee, as a resident of Ohio, a licensed cosmetologist, and your constituent, I **urge your support for SB 133**.

It is an honor to be able to present to you...it is a bit overwhelming. This is a first for me. My name is Carmen Tharpe and I am a licensed stylist.

I am so passionate about cosmetology careers; that is why I am here. I have been a licensed stylist since 1995. I have worked in full service, small salons and larger organizations. I have worked with hundreds of stylists and I am currently managing a salon. I am hopeful that reform and legislation like **SB 133** will reduce barriers and attract more students into this wonderful career. I am proud to say that my daughter has just finished cosmetology school.

Did you know that 30% of students that complete cosmetology school do not take the exam? They may be like my daughter...she loves cosmetology but struggles with tests. If pre-graduate testing were available to her, and students like her, they would be able to get the extra support they need by taking the test after they complete 80% of their hours. They would be able to learn what they needed to know to pass when their program was complete.

My daughter has the benefit of my coaching and support. She will take the test and will pass! But many other students will get lost...they will get discouraged and they will not pursue the career they had hoped for. Pre-graduate testing could make such a difference and provide more confident stylists for the industry. And there is demand for stylists....I would love to hire more stylists and have great jobs available.

I am an Ohio native and don't anticipate moving. But I know everyone is more mobile and moves from state-to-state. **SB 133** provides an opportunity for stylists to easily transfer their

license to Ohio. Hair is hair! Let's make it easy for stylists to grow their career in Ohio. Once again, when it is hard to move a license from one state to another, we lose stylists to other careers. Let's make it possible for them to continue their career and help Ohio businesses grow!

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

Respectfully,

Carmen Tharpe