

## Senate Bill 133 Cosmetology Licensure

### Interested Party Testimony

Ohio Senate Small Business & Economic Opportunity Committee

May 19, 2021

Chairman Rulli, Vice Chair Lang, Ranking Member Sykes, and members of the Ohio Senate Small Business and Economic Opportunity Committee. My name is Torre Ames-Trogus. I am an instructor at the Ohio state school of cosmetology. I am also a former student. I am not a public speaker; I also do not involve myself in politics. I'm standing in front of this committee today because the outcome of this bill is extremely important to me and the future of cosmetology.

This bill would negatively impact our current and future students. 1000 hours is not enough time to give you practical skills necessary or teach you the science behind the field of cosmetology. The job of a cosmetologist is more than completing a service. Our job is to understand our client's specific needs. Reducing the hours would drastically impact the amount of knowledge and experience a student would receive by the time of graduation. That lack of knowledge would not only give them a disadvantage when compared to their more seasoned and educated colleagues, but would also put the customer at a higher risk of having a less than desirable outcome.

Many companies do not offer continued education. The lack of continued education forces employees to seek out continued education classes. These classes teach cosmetologists information they would have received during their 1500 hour program. With the reduction in necessary hours, students will potentially be forced into a job that they are not prepared for. Many salons do not have training programs for new stylists. They expect incoming cosmetology graduates to hit the ground running with little to no supervision.

I always say our jobs are more than just doing hair or just doing nails. We have someone's image and their confidence in our hands. It is our job to make sure we are making the best decisions for our very vast and diverse clientele. Without proper knowledge of how to formulate color or other chemical services the results could be not only unwanted but unsafe. The additional hours teach students how to react when faced with clients that may have done services on themselves and how to properly and most of all safely fix the mistakes. Without proper knowledge and training, you run the risk of further damage to their hair or causing physical damage to the client which could lead to potential lawsuits.

Requiring more schooling gives upcoming cosmetologists real world knowledge of how to think on their feet to resolve issues safely as well as the knowledge to troubleshoot potential issues and give sound advice to their clientele. These skills will help them with their future job prospects and give them the experience that employers are looking for.

No one would want to hear that their doctor had a shorter education than what was previously required to practice. Although cosmetologists are not performing medical procedures, they are required to at times to perform what seem to be miracles on clients much like a physician. With more intensive schooling, you expect to get the best of the best.

Our students deserve the best education they can get. An education that would that would extend them to have endless job opportunities across the United States. 1000 hour would only extend to Massachusetts, New York, Texas and Vermont as of 2019, Limiting their opportunities and chances of success. The 1500 hour program is the minimum amount of hours to be able to absorb as much information as a student can before they are thrown into the real world. Education lessons the challenges they will face in their field and will help safeguard them against costly mistakes. The more knowledge you gain, the more opportunities will open. These opportunities will help make these students more rounded, and have more personal as well as professional growth.

Thank You.