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February 28, 2018

The Honorable Louis W. Blessing III
Chairman, House Government Accountability & Oversight
Committee

Ohio House of Representatives
77 South High Street, 11th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Via Email:

GovernmentAccountability&OversightCommittee@ohiohouse.gov

RE: House Bill 189 Support

Dear Chairman Blessing:

On behalf of the nearly 8,000 members of the Ohio Chamber of Commerce, I write to you in support of House Bill 189; legislation that makes changes to Ohio's cosmetology law and reduces the licensure training hours from 1,500 to 1,000. HB 189 is designed to provide economic competitiveness and workforce growth for Ohio.

The Ohio Chamber of Commerce regularly tackles issues related to workforce development and business overregulation. Many times, our members express grave concern with the struggle to find qualified workers and that government regulations impede their ability to grow. An example of this is in the private cosmetology school setting where there is a requirement that an individual have 1,500 training hours before being able to sit for the state board examination. Many of these hours are spent in a classroom and not actually practicing the trade.

HB 189 is a common-sense reform that will translate into individuals achieving licensure more expeditiously. Salon owners throughout the state continue to cite staffing shortages and difficulty finding qualified employees that are not saddled with high student loan debt as chief concerns. Shortened cosmetology programs may translate into lower tuition costs and, in many cases, lower student loan debt. Lowering the barriers to entry, such a cost and a lengthy licensure process, can prevent individuals from foregoing cosmetology as a viable career path while not sacrificing quality.

Lastly, many salon owners are small businesses who already face a tremendous amount of regulation and red tape. The passage of HB 189 will send a clear message to these entrepreneurs that Ohio understands the challenges they face and wants to remove barriers to individuals entering this industry.

For these reason, we urge you to support HB 189. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding our opposition at dboyd@ohiochamber.com or (614) 629-0916.

Respectfully,



Don Boyd
Director, Labor & Legal Affairs
Ohio Chamber of Commerce