**Proponent Testimony on SB 129 (Written)**

**By \_\_\_\_\_\_David Boucher\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Before the Senate Government Oversight & Reform Committee**

**On Tuesday, December 12, 2017**

Chairman Coley, Vice Chair Uecker, Ranking Member Schiavoni and distinguished members of the Senate Government Accountability & Reform Committee. My name is David Boucher and I am the President of Bhooshay Enterprises of Ohio, LLC, an Ohio company that is a Franchisee of Sport Clips Haircuts, with 2 stores located in Ohio – West Chester and South Lebanon. I want to express my support for the cosmetology reforms contained in SB 129.

As a small business owner in the salon business I face a significant challenge in staffing our stores and I believe that SB 129 will directly benefit my stores, my stylists and my clients. We are fortunate to have more clients who would like to patronize our stores than we can support. Yes, our sales are constrained due to a limitation in the number of service providers (licensed cosmetologists) we can hire. If the unnecessary burden of 1,500 hours was reduced to 1,000 hours we anticipate more people will enter the cosmetology industry and that we could employ at least 2 more people per location. These are good jobs that are going unfilled with most positions earning from $18-$36/hour. We know from our stylists and from research that the commitment needed by a student to pay for and attend school for 1,500 hours is excessive and prohibits many people from entering the cosmetologist profession. Reducing that requirement to 1,000 hours will ease that burden and encourage people to enter into a great profession. The national research shows that 1,000 hours will not reduce the quality of the education nor cause a lack of knowledge on the part of the new graduates. In fact, Ohio already licenses stylists through our vocation schools with 1,000 hours of cosmetology training. Why should those whom attend a Beauty School have to have 50% more hours to accomplish the same licensing?

Similarly, we have people whom would like to work in Ohio for us, but without an Ohio license due to a relocation; then subsequently finding out that their license from another state is not valid in Ohio and that Ohio requires additional testing and potentially additional hours. License reciprocity between states would make what it should be - a non-issue. While many relocated stylists do go through the process of getting their Ohio license, I have never seen a stylist change any of their cutting skills, client skills, or any behavior, in any way due to this additional process. Cutting hair is a ‘universal’ skill that should easily transfer from state to state. Why shouldn’t a stylist be able to find employment in Ohio in order to do the exact same thing she does in any other state with licensure?

Thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on SB 129 to the committee. I understand this hearing is the last opportunity for SB 129 to be discussed before the holidays. I urge your favorable action on the bill in early 2018.