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

**By \_\_\_\_\_\_David Boucher, President, Bhooshay Enterprises of Ohio, LLC\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**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 - an Independent Area Developer for Sport Clips Haircuts in Central and Southern Ohio. My company oversees the expansion and operations of Sport Clips Franchised stores in Central and Southern Ohio where we currently have 50 stores and will add at least 3 more stores in 2018. I want to express my support for the cosmetology reforms contained in SB 129.

In my area, we currently employ approximately 350 licensed cosmetologists now and we are in the process of trying to hire approximately 60 stylists for new stores preparing to open within the next 12 months. Additionally, we need another approximately 75 stylists to fill existing positions in our open stores today. The unexpected closing of so many beauty schools in Ohio has constrained our supply of stylists and brings great apprehension to our independent franchised business owners.

Their concerns regarding the availability of licensed cosmetologists slows the expansion of the business in Ohio, which is harmful to the Ohio business owners, the stylists, and the franchisor. With a greater supply of stylists to fill positions paying from $18-$36 per hour, we would largely alleviate that hesitation by the business owners, thus giving us the opportunity to open more stores and generate more tax revenue for the state.

SB129 helps specifically by increasing the number of students who will enter cosmetology school due to the reduction of licensing hours and the related decrease in expense to the students.

This legislation simply makes sense. Currently, a stylist can be licensed by attending a vocational school and taking 1,000 hours of cosmetology training. Why should attending a beauty school (requiring 50% more hours and substantially higher expense for the licensee), whom is specialized in cosmetology training, need to require more hours to accomplish the same licensing?

Additionally, we have many cosmetologists whom move into Ohio who do not continue to work as a stylist due to the lack of reciprocity in the state of Ohio. They should not have to take additional hours or go through additional testing in order to work in a field where they are already professionally licensed.

Finally, the creation of an apprenticeship program is beneficial to the businesses as well as the licensee. A student can get practical experience working in a salon and find the right environment for her to generate personal income. Our stylists ‘learn by doing’, so apprenticeship is a very practical way for them to enhance their learning and develop new marketable skills.

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.