**Proponent Testimony on SB 129**

**By \_\_\_\_\_Regina Johnson \_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**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 Regina Johnson and I am an Area Coach for the franchise of Sport Clips which have 56 locations throughout the state of Ohio. I want to express my support for the cosmetology reforms contained in SB 129.

* I have been a stylist in the state of Ohio for over 20 years and have seen it become harder and harder not only to complete our license requirements, but also to staff our stores. I am seeing more and more that we are struggling to find the stylists to hire. I find myself in a profession that I love and have a passion for struggle at times because of the requirements we have in place for someone wanting to enter our profession.
* As a trainer and recruiter I find it harder to find stylists to recruit as so many schools have been closed and new students aren’t enrolling due to the time it takes for them to be able to get out into the work force and start making money.
* I support this legislation to reduce cosmetology licensing hours from 1,500 to 1,000, and reducing hair design hours from 1,200 to 800. By doing this we would be able to get licensees out into the work force much quicker, therefore solving problems for both our salons being under staffed, and getting stylist making money much quicker.
* I would also find it very helpful for license reciprocity/endorsement for beauty professionals entering Ohio. (i.e. no waiting, no additional training hours, no additional test for licensure to start working). We have stores also in Kentucky and its should not be that hard for someone to come from Kentucky to cut hair in Ohio. This again would help in staffing our stores and allow stylist to choose where they would like to work.
* The creation of an apprenticeship program in case public and private schools don’t produce enough graduates to feed the workforce also seems to be a great starting point. Who better to be able to train and work with our future professionals than our current professionals who are currently in our stores and would love the opportunity to pass on their passion to someone new.

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.