



**Opposition Testimony to SB 133  
Before the Senate Small Business and Economic Opportunity Committee  
Patrick J. Thompson  
May 12, 2021**

**To: Chairman Rulli, Vice Chairman Lang, Ranking Member Sykes and Members of the Senate Small Business and Economic Opportunity Committee.**

My name is Patrick J. Thompson, and I am writing to offer my strong opposition to Senate Bill 133.

I have been involved in the beauty industry for over 25 years. I have experience in almost every aspect of the beauty and cosmetology industries, including education, sales, manufacturing, distribution and retail and salon/spa operations. My professional experience includes serving as the Vice President of Sales and Education and Vice President of Salon/Spa Development for Aveda Corporation, a division of the Estee Lauder Companies, and as General Manager and General Counsel for Fredric's Corporation, an Ohio-based distributor of beauty products. In 2004, I left the corporate world to fulfill a life-long dream to become an entrepreneur. I currently am the owner of two Nurtur Salons in Columbus, Ohio, the Aveda Institute Columbus, a cosmetology school located on Bethel Road, and the Aveda Fredric's Institute in West Chester, Ohio. These three businesses employ over 150 team members, of which the majority are licensed professionals, and all reside and pay taxes in the State of Ohio.

I respectfully ask that you consider my experience and credentials in reviewing my testimony and when casting your vote on this bill.

I am strongly opposed to SB 133 in all aspects. However, I would like to address a few key issues that cause me the greatest concern. They include: 1) lack of evidence supporting that the reduction in hours is in the best interest of the student or leads to better education and employment outcomes; 2) the negative impact on the portability of an Ohio cosmetology license; 3) the increased financial burden on small business; 4) the disproportionately negative impact on women; and 5) the negative impact on low income students.

**LACK OF EVIDENCE SUPPORTING THAT REDUCTION OF HOURS IS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE STUDENT OR LEADS TO BETTER EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT OUTCOMES**

A cosmetology license in the State of Ohio is a bundled license, consisting of a hair design license (currently 1200 hours), an esthetician's license (currently 600 hours) and a manicuring license (currently 200 hours). The Bill seeks to reduce significantly the number of clock hours required for licensure as a cosmetologist from 1500 to 1000 hours. However, the reduction in hours is not backed by any research or definitive studies that conclude that the reduced number of hours will lead to better educational or employment outcomes.

In fact, the two major curriculum providers to the cosmetology school industry, Pivot Point and Milady's, have withdrawn their support from the Future of the Beauty Industry Coalition, the group formed to advocate for the change to a 1000-hour curriculum nationwide. Both Pivot Point and Milady's have concluded, like 46 other states, that 1000 hours are not a sufficient number of hours to ensure the requisite skill set for licensure and success in the field of cosmetology. Likewise, Steve Sleeper, the Executive Director of the Professional Beauty Association, recently testified against House Bill 2476 in Arizona, a similar bill to SB 133 introduced in Arizona and aimed at reducing the number of hours required for cosmetology licensure in Arizona to 1000 hours.

Even where cosmetology students are offered the opportunity to participate in a competency-based curriculum such as in Oregon, the average student takes between 1400 and 1600 hours to complete a full cosmetology curriculum. Academic and industry experts involved in this pilot program in Oregon conducted under the supervision of the Department of Education have concluded that a competency-based curriculum would result in most graduates taking 1500 hours to complete the full cosmetology curriculum consisting of hair, skin and nails. Curriculum experts and Industry experts agree that 1000 hours is not enough education to produce a cosmetologist with all of the necessary competencies to ensure long-term success in the industry.

Most persuasive is the fact that average incomes of recent graduates in states with 1500 hours or more exceed average incomes of recent graduates from New York and Massachusetts, the only 1000-hour states, by 50-100%. Professional cosmetology and beauty industry experts and the data conclusively demonstrate that 1000 hours is simply not enough education to ensure acceptable educational and employment outcomes.

The proponents of SB 133 have not offered any evidence to support that a 1000-hour cosmetology course would lead to better educational or employment outcomes for cosmetology students. In fact, the proponents have not offered any testimony from any academic professionals or from the very students who would be most directly impacted if SB 133 were to pass.

I ask you to consider the negative impact on the quality of student education and student income outcomes that will result if SB 133 is passed. Ohio would move from one of the leaders in quality of education and outcomes in the cosmetology industry to the bottom like New York and Massachusetts, where students graduating cosmetology school are forced to work under the supervision of a master stylist for 2 years before being eligible for a full cosmetology license.

#### **NEGATIVE IMPACT ON PORTABILITY OF AN OHIO COSMETOLOGY LICENSE**

As previously stated, the Bill seeks to reduce significantly the number of clock hours required for licensure as a cosmetologist from 1500 to 1000 hours. Currently, a newly licensed cosmetologist in the State of Ohio can seek licensure in 34 states without the need of investing in any additional education. If SB 133 becomes law, newly licensed cosmetologists in the State of Ohio would be left with being able to transfer to only 4 states - New York, Massachusetts, Texas and Vermont. SB 133 is hardly a "common-sense" reform as alleged by the proponents if newly licensed Ohio cosmetologists can seek employment in only 5 states versus 34.

#### **INCREASED FINANCIAL BURDEN ON SMALL BUSINESS**

Nearly two-thirds of salons and spas are small, independently owned entrepreneurial businesses that employ less than 5 people and operate on an incredibly modest profit margin of less than 10%. All of these businesses were deeply impacted by the COVID-19 Pandemic. SB 133 would force these small, independent businesses to absorb an additional cost of between \$5,000 and \$8,000 per new hire to replace the training that is now provided to each newly licensed cosmetologist in the State. The average salon or spa is not in a financial position, particularly as they recover from the destructive impacts of COVID-19 to bear the burden of the increased training that would be required if the hours for each professional license were decreased. Even most larger salons and spas would not be in a position to absorb these increased costs, especially after suffering the effects of being subject to forced shutdowns and occupancy restrictions during the last year. The proponents of SB 133 are owners, franchisees or officers of large, chain salon operations that stand to benefit from the demise of the small, independently owned salon and spa that is not able to bear the increased financial burden of educating its professional staff for up to 500 additional hours.

#### **DISPROPORTIONATELY NEGATIVE IMPACT ON WOMEN TO THE BENEFIT**

The professional beauty industry is dominated by female workers and owners. Nearly 95% of beauty professionals and 85% of licensed cosmetologists are women, while women represent only 47% of the workers in all US industries. Likewise, women own 61% of independent salons, whereas women own only 30% of businesses in all private sectors. While the proponents of SB 133 argue that the "common-sense



reforms” proposed in SB 133 are necessary to position the Ohio cosmetology industry for survival, the truth is that SB 133, if passed into law, will result in the closing of numerous female-owned businesses and in less choice for Ohio female licensees who currently are free to relocate to 33 other states.

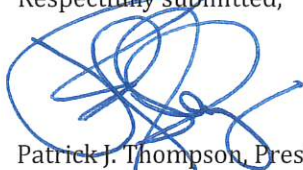
Contrary to what the proponents allege, SB 133 is not legislative reform “necessary to position the Ohio cosmetology industry for survival.” Instead, it is an attempt by the proponents and the large chain salons to use legislation to advance their own interests and harm smaller and independent competitors already suffering as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic. The unintended consequence of this legislation if passed would result in an uneven playing field, allowing the large chain salons to be the “winners” and the small salons and spas and the independent stylists who go straight from cosmetology school to behind the chair to be the “losers.”

#### **NEGATIVE IMPACT ON LOW INCOME STUDENTS**

Currently, low-income cosmetology students who are eligible for federal Pell grants receive \$10,825 in grant money that does not have to be repaid. Likewise, low-income barbering students are eligible for \$12,990 in federal Pell grants. If SB 133 were to become law in Ohio, low-income cosmetology students would lose \$3,608 in Pell grants and low-income barbering students would lose \$5,773. One of the arguments that the proponents argue for passage of SB 133 is that the proposed law would reduce student debt. This would not be the case for those students demonstrating the highest need for financial aid as one of the unintended consequences of the passage of SB 133 is that federal Pell grants for low- income Ohio students would be reduced by up to 44.4%.

Finally, I ask you to consider one question – when has less education ever been beneficial to a student seeking to become a professional?

Respectfully submitted,



Patrick J. Thompson, President  
Nurtur Salons/Aveda Institute Columbus/Aveda Fredric’s Institute/Nurtur Holdings LLC

**BREAKDOWN OF FINANCIAL IMPACT ON PELL GRANTS\* IF HOURS FOR  
COSMETOLOGY AND BARBERING ARE REDUCED TO 1000 HOURS**

<b>Cosmetology - Independent 0 EFC</b>			
	<b>1500 Hours</b>	<b>1000 Hours</b>	<b>Difference - Reduction</b>
<b>Pell Grant</b>	\$10,825	\$7,217	(\$3,608)
<b>Direct Loans</b>	\$16,500	\$10,667	(\$5,833)
<b>Barbering - Independent 0 EFC</b>			
	<b>1800 Hours</b>	<b>1000 Hours</b>	<b>Difference - Reduction</b>
<b>Pell Grant</b>	\$12,990	\$7,217	(\$5,773)
<b>Direct Loans</b>	\$20,000	\$10,667	(\$9,333)

\*2021-2022 Pell Grant Data

**Interest on Direct Loans**

2.75% for Direct Subsidized and Unsubsidized Loans

**Career Training Smart Option Student Loan through Sallie Mae:**

Variable rates 1.13% - 11.23% APR

<https://www.salliemae.com/student-loans/career-training-smart-option-student-loan/>

## Cosmetology Education Requirements By State Updated November 2, 2019

**2100**

Iowa

**1800**

Hawaii

Nebraska

North Dakota

West Virginia

**1600**

Arizona

California

Idaho

Nevada

New Mexico

Washington

Utah

Wyoming

**1650**

Alaska

**1550**

Wisconsin

Minnesota

**1500**

Alabama

Arkansas

Colorado

Connecticut

Delaware

Washington DC

Georgia

Illinois

Indiana

Kansas

Kentucky

Louisiana

Maine

Maryland

Michigan

Mississippi

Missouri

Montana

New Hampshire

North Carolina

Ohio

Oklahoma

South Carolina

South Dakota

Tennessee

Texas

Virginia

**1450**

Oregon

**1250**

Pennsylvania

**1200**

Florida

New Jersey

Rhode Island

**1000**

Massachusetts

New York

Texas

Vermont

**Because of the optional 300 hour Advanced Cosmetology License,  
Ohioans can transfer easily to any state except one.**