



SMALL BUSINESS AND
ECONOMIC OPPURTUNITY
COMMITTEE

Witness Form

Today's Date 5/17/2021

Name: BETHANY E. BROWN

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Organization Representing: _____

Testifying on Bill Number: SB133

Testimony: Verbal Written Both

Testifying As: Proponent Opponent Interested Party

Are you a Registered Lobbyist? Yes No

Special Requests: _____

Opposition Testimony to SB 133
Before the Senate Small Business and Economic Opportunity Committee
Bethany E. Brown
May 19, 2021

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

My Name is Bethany Brown, and I am writing to express my strong opposition to the Senate Bill 133.

I am a 2005 graduate of the Aveda Institute Columbus where I currently hold the position of Education Manager. In my 16 years of being a licensed Cosmetologist, I worked at 1400 Salon and Spa in Grandview, OH for 7 years and 2 other smaller salons in German Village. I worked at the Regency Institute for 4 years as an Educator, an Admissions Representative, and a Classroom lead. I then returned to the Aveda Institute four years ago where I started as Cosmetology Instructor. Last year, I was promoted to the Education Manager responsible for leading the education faculty.

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

I was raised in a salon and spent many days on the laps of my grandmother's clients, while she made them look and feel beautiful. I spent many days sweeping hair and cleaning shampoo bowls when I was not at school or working an after-school job. My dream was to finish cosmetology school and come back to my hometown to run the salon and business my grandmother built over the course of 35 years. Over the course of time, I began to gain the knowledge of how a business is run and how a salon should look and feel. Even with all my knowledge about a salon and running a business that was passed down to me by my grandmother, I still did not know everything. It was scary to think that I am literally altering a client's natural genetics when coloring, relaxing or permanently waving their hair. I was afraid to accidentally snip someone's cuticle or accidentally cut someone's ear and potentially give them a staph infection. Our industry can be one of the most sanitary industries if you are taught correctly and continue to use the proper sanitation with each service you perform. I knew then I needed to learn everything behind these processes so I could put my fears at ease.

I moved to Columbus and enrolled at the Aveda Institute. I realized during my program at Aveda, that there is barely enough time in a 1500-hour program to learn all the basics necessary for students to pass state board and to be prepared to enter the industry. While in school I realized how much more time I really needed to be prepared, and even though I was at one of the top Cosmetology schools, I still did not know enough. I realized I was not prepared to be successful, not because of the school itself but because the constraints put on the industry as a whole. Because of this, I realized that even though my passion is for the beauty industry, my purpose is to educate.

My purpose is to educate properly and effectively to anyone who is interested in Hair, Skin, Makeup and Nails. My purpose is not only to educate them on the sanitation and cleanliness, but to also educate them on how to have a successful business. How to pursue additional education so they can continue to grow and be productive and profitable. There is so much to cover in each category that the Cosmetology education entails that even taking away a few hours will drastically cut their education and tremendously affect the individual's readiness for success in the industry.

My fear of this bill passing is that students will be even more discouraged. They will be even more unprepared, and they will never have the opportunity become the owner of a profitable business. This is where our industry will be discredited and the "kitchen beautician" will be at an all time high. Our industry needs to be taken seriously! Anytime you are dealing with cutting, using chemicals to alter hair, skin or nails, or using anything hot to complete a service on a human being, you need the maximum amount of education for theoretical training as well as hands on training.

I started school at the age of 28 after being in the medical field for 10 years where I completed several programs and a great deal of training. I felt I was a well-rounded and intelligent woman with more confidence than some of my peers. I was lucky to have a job in the salon right out of school, but I was terrified. I did not have the confidence, and I felt I did not know enough to go into the salon alone, so I chose to work at an employee-based salon with a training program. I did not know how I was going to be successful with the 1500 hours of education I did have. I was not prepared like I was for other jobs because there simply is too much to fit in such a small timeframe. Our industry is worth a lot more than 1000 hours.

Respectfully submitted,



Bethany E. Brown