



330.782.3395

Boardman Campus/Corporate Office
615 Boardman Canfield Rd.
Boardman, OH 44512

Opposition Testimony Against SB 133 May 19, 2021

Chairman Rulli, Vice Chair Lang, Ranking Member Sykes and members of the Senate Small Business and Economic Opportunity Committee: Thank you for the opportunity to present opposition testimony on **SB133**. My name is Ralph P. Delserone III, I am the owner of Raphael's School of Beauty Culture; I have 6 locations in Northeast Ohio. I urge you to vote no on **SB133**.

I am opposed to reducing the number of cosmetology hours for licensure in this bill. The beauty industry is more advanced than 20, 10 or even 5 years ago, it is constantly evolving. Advancements in chemical compounds, electronics and equipment, has increased the types of services our students perform.

Reducing cosmetology hours will not benefit Ohioans. Our schools not only teach the required hours for sanitation practices and principles, we also must incorporate this training in to the various services our students perform. This gives our students "real world" hands on training. (This teaches our students on how to protect their clients and successfully perform advanced services on customers. They learn who can safely receive advanced services and how to keep those customers safe.)

The recent COVID-19 Pandemic has brought to the forefront the increased need for training and education on sanitation, bacteriology and disease prevention. Our students perform daily sanitation duties, keep their work area clean and protect their client's health. This repetition is important because they will carry this training forward with them in their beauty career. Reducing cosmetology training hours will have an adverse effect on the public health safety in Ohio.

Department of Barbering
Niles, OH 44446
330.505.9915

Raphael's School of Beauty
Niles, OH 44446
330.652.1559

Raphael's School of Beauty
Willoughby, OH 44094
440.742.4555

Raphael's School of Beauty
Brunswick, OH 44212
330.225.0195

Raphael's School of Beauty
N. Olmsted, OH 44070
440.716.8153

Raphael's School of Beauty
Alliance, OH 44601
330.823.3884



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Distance Education: I further oppose **SB133** because it allows distance education to be used to satisfy the minimum hours of instruction. This language is vague and dangerous. Distance education should be available only for a very small percentage of cosmetology training during the Pandemic. We have found that distance education is not optimal for training students for a "hands on career".

Allowing the Board of Cosmetology to determine the amount of distance education hours allowed, will hurt our students and dilute their education. Educational quality must be upheld and too many distance education hours are not the best delivery method for our students.

In conclusion, I oppose **SB133** for many reasons. I have outlined my two major concerns today. Customer health safety and student education go hand in hand. Cutting cosmetology hours will lead to a beauty professional who is less safe and less prepared, and a customer whose health safety is at risk in Ohio salons.

Again, I ask you to vote no on **SB133**.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ralph P. Delserone III".

Ralph P. Delserone III

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