Maryland
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF LABOR LETTER OF SUPPORT ON HB1547.

TO: House Economic Matters
FROM: Maryland Department of Labor
DATE: March 13, 2025
BILL: HB 1547-Barbers and Cosmetologists - License Qualifications - Domestic
          Violence Awareness Training

The Maryland Department of Labor (MD Labor) supports House Bill 1547 -License Qualifications - Domestic Violence Awareness Training. Incorporating domestic violence awareness training will not only help create a safer environment for consumers but also elevate the perception of barbers and cosmetologists as trusted and responsible professionals. This legislation could provide salons and barbershops an opportunity to showcase their commitment to social responsibility, and equip beauty professionals with the skills and knowledge to recognize signs of domestic violence and provide resources to clients who may have nowhere else to find help.

MD Labor appreciates the leadership of Speaker Jones on this issue and her willingness to consult with MD Labor on the language of the proposal. We are exploring with the Sponsor alternatives to allow the Board of Barbers and Cosmetologists the ability to publish a list of approved courses to fulfill this requirement on its website. This would provide licensees with clear guidance on fulfilling the requirement and achieving compliance efficiently and is also similar to how other states have integrated this requirement into their licensing requirements. Approving a list of providers from local nonprofit organizations has the additional benefit of supporting community partners who are subject matter experts in this area. This would connect beauty professionals directly with those organizations that can provide assistance, in the event that a situation arises where they need to apply the knowledge gained from this training.

To that end, MD Labor respectfully asks the Committee for a favorable report on House Bill 1547.

For questions, please contact Andrew Fulginiti, at **Andrew.Fulginiti@maryland.gov**