

Hello Mr. Chairman and members of the committee,

My name is Cassiopeia Capps, I am the Executive Director for the Kansas Board of Barbering.

We continue to see an increase within the barbering industry from the number of students applying to attend barber school, transfers into the State of Kansas, applications for new barber shops, and applications for new barber schools within the State.

We have seen a steady rise in the number of candidates graduating and applying for barber license examination. By statute, the Board is mandated to examine individuals graduating from a barber school or college prior to issuing a barber license.

Barber examinations within Kansas assess an individual's fundamental knowledge, understanding of the barbering profession, their individual skills, ability, and the sanitation regulations set forth by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment for the barbering profession.

Our agency made requests for the expenses accrued with the increase in testing for the written national theory and practical examinations, tires and maintenance for the agency vehicle, the rising statewide cost indices, the increase of the Executive Director position from part-time to full-time and increases for our national conference attendance.

Salary and wages increase due to insurance costs, KPERS, Statewide pay increase(s), and the Executive Director moving from part-time to full-time (an increase from 35 hours per week to 40 hours per week).

In-State travel expenses increases are for practical examinations, Board per diem, hotels, reimbursements, inspector travel, lodging, and M&IE, and our national conference registration. This annual conference changes location each year and in addition the registration fees for conference attendance increased.

This year there are rising statewide cost allowance indices, costs of meals, lodging, and per diem for Board members and staff. To keep up with the number of candidates who are eligible to sit for the practical hands-on examination we are having to increase the number of examinations administered within the fiscal year. We are expecting the number of practical hands-on examinations to continue to increase within the following fiscal years.

Increases in Out of State Travel and Substance expenses include our annual National Barber Board of America (NABBA) conference. This conference plays a vital role within our agency and allows us to facilitate professional collaboration with other state licensing agencies. We have included out-of-state travel, meals, and lodging costs associated with national association conference attendance.

With the increase in new barber shops, we have requested an enhancement for tires for the agency vehicle in preparation for when/if these or any other work on the agency vehicle is needed. We are wanting to ensure we have the funds to cover maintenance on the agency vehicle. Going forward, our agency will start to include a five-year plan for the purchase of an agency vehicle and coverage for maintenance on the vehicle. Over the years, our agency has only purchased a vehicle when the other one has either been wrecked or died on the side of the road. The last vehicle we replaced was because the inspector was in a no-fault accident and the agency vehicle was totaled. Our agency had to ask for a special finance committee approval to spend above our approved amount for a new agency vehicle as we did have it in our budget approved to purchase one. We want to take a more proactive approach and be prepared to where we are not in the situation again to where we do not have the funds allocated for a new vehicle.

Even with the cost of inflation over the last 18 years, we have not been able to raise our fees and yet, we have found ways to be frugal and good stewards of the fee fund to do the best we can with what means we have. We do our best to estimate what we are expecting to spend from our budget every year based on the increases in testing candidates, travel needs, and rising costs. For many years, we have been told that we were to keep a minimum of six months expenses in our cash balance. In addition, we have tried the last few years to increase our requested budget and are informed that we cannot do that. Therefore, we find that every year we were having to ask for enhancements to our budget requests.

This agency understands its responsibilities to our licensees to be good stewards of the fees which fund our purpose. We continue to closely monitor expenditures to carry out the board's statutory duties to protect public health and safety by inspecting all barbering establishments, investigate all complaints, process written requests and applications, issue licenses, and conduct licensing examinations. To assist with ensuring we stay within our budget and that all expenditures paid are accurate, our agency tracks every invoice each month and match it to the penny with the APPTIO system provided by the SMART Service Center and Department of Administration.

Our agency concurs with the changes made by the House General Government Budget Committee.

Thank you for your time.