To whom it may concern,

I, Brittany Hoogeveen, am writing to you regarding House File 49. I'm the mom of a 16-year-old young man who has been interested in becoming a barber for a few years. My son, Brody, happened upon a new barbershop, Groom Barber Lounge, a few years ago and opened his eyes at what working at a well-respected barbershop looked like. Once we left after his first haircut at Groom, Brody said that's what career path he wanted to go into. After emailing with the owners of Groom, they welcomed Brody into their shop as a shop assistant consisting of assisting with various things such as product inventory, cleaning up, help with the cash register, and other miscellaneous tasks. Brody has appreciated his employment at Groom but would like to begin cutting hair as quickly as possible. The need for barbers is growing. Schools are offering classes for students to become certified nurse's assistants, welders, engineering apprentices, etc. These students are receiving college credits while getting paid to do so. Barbers are more than people who stand behind a chair and cut hair all day. Barbers are also artists, sculpting each client's style to their liking.

I firmly believe young men or women aspiring to become a barber should get the opportunity to start their apprenticeship at a young age. Students would be prepared for what is to come after graduating high school and without the college debt acquired in doing so.

Thank you for your time in consideration in allowing young men and women begin cutting hair under supervision of a licensed barber.