LENA C. TAYLOR

Wisconsin State Senator • 4th District

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Committee on Health, Human Services, Insurance, & Job Creation
Testimony of Senator Lena C Taylor
SB 504 – Supervision of Barber & Cosmetology Apprentices
March 5, 2008

Honorable Chairman Erpenbach and members—

Good morning, I appreciate the opportunity to testify in strong support for Senate Bill (SB) 504 – the Apprenticeship Bill – which in my opinion is a commonsense bill.

This bill was drafted at the behest of the Department of Regulation & Licensing (DRL). I have worked very closely with DRL and the Board of Barbering & Cosmetology, in recent times to garner input from residents as to how best to enable the professions and sub-specialties under B & C to flourish. This piece of legislation is among others that were enunciated during the listening sessions that occurred.

This bill is merely a technical fix that would allow this delegation of apprentice supervision to take place as had been the case in years past. The practice of barbering or cosmetology licensees who were not managers supervising apprentices was allowed under the Board rules; and was common practice until the rule was changed following a legal interpretation of the Legislative Council. Their comment was that the language conflicted with the provisions of statute.

The bill would therefore allow the industry to return to the former practice of allowing responsible licensees to supervise apprentices, and will expand the opportunities available to receive this training.

It is my hope that this fix is executed in order that these professions will continue to thrive. The Assembly is taking up the companion bill on the floor today and is expected to pass this bill.

I urge your support of the bill.

Thank you for your time.

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