



Senate Federal and State Affairs
Committee:

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**SB 76: Occupational Licensing Fees for
Low-Income Individuals**

Testimony by:

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**Chairman LaTurner, Vice Chair Estes, Ranking Member Faust-Goudeau and
Members of the Committee:**

Thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of SB 76.

The Kansas Department for Children and Families (DCF) administers the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) cash assistance program and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), known as the Food Assistance Program in Kansas. The most effective path out of poverty is employment, and we provide the tools to assist our clients as they become self-reliant. Assistance may come in the form of the payment of tuition in short-term technical or training programs (including for professional occupations that require fees and licensure), payment for occupational or licensing fees for such things as a Commercial Driver's License (CDL) or Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA), and similar license re-certifications or renewals.

Among other provisions, SB 76 waives all occupational fees and fees from licensing requirements for low-income individuals. Public assistance recipients, including those receiving TANF and SNAP, would be exempt from such occupational and licensing fees.

Waiving the individual professional licensing fees for public assistance recipients would not only allow our employment services funding to be used for other supportive service needs for these individuals, such as transportation, tools and uniforms, but it would remove another obstacle for clients who want to obtain better-paying jobs or perhaps even start their own businesses. Essentially, this bill cuts through some of the red tape and lowers the barriers to self-reliance and personal responsibility for our clients, and it is for these reasons that DCF supports the legislation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify as a proponent for SB 76. I am happy to take your questions.