



INSTITUTE FOR JUSTICE

Institute for Justice's Written Testimony in Support of HB 2506

February 13, 2020

Dear Chairman Tarwater and Members of the House Committee on Commerce, Labor, and Economic Development:

My name is Meagan Forbes, and I am an attorney at the Institute for Justice. The Institute for Justice is a national nonprofit public interest law firm. We litigate and work to protect economic liberty across the country.

The Institute for Justice supports HB 2506 for two reasons. First, it is a step in the right direction toward lessening licensing barriers in Kansas. Occupational licensing laws differ from state to state and create substantial barriers to worker mobility. HB 2506 helps break down those barriers by allowing qualified workers with licenses or experience from other states to work in Kansas. Workers do not lose their skills and experience when they cross state lines. Kansas should recognize out-of-state workers' credentials and not require qualified workers to spend time and money obtaining an unnecessary license.

Secondly, HB 2506 helps relieve friction in labor markets. We live in a national economy, but occupations are primarily regulated at the state level. Government policy should encourage people to follow opportunity rather than creating unnecessary obstacles to earning a living. States can help lessen this friction and encourage productivity by recognizing the licenses and experience of out-of-state workers.

Workers in Kansas should be earning a living, not a license. I encourage you to support this bill. Thank you for your consideration of this important issue.

Sincerely,

Meagan Forbes
Legislative Counsel
Institute for Justice