

State of Kansas  
Senate

State Capitol, 224-E  
Topeka, Kansas 66612  
(785) 296-7370  
richard.hilderbrand@senate.ks.gov



10337 SE 107th Terr  
Galena, Kansas 66739  
(417) 529-3262

Richard Hilderbrand  
Senator, 13th District

January 27, 2021

Testimony in Support of SB 10 – An Act concerning labor and employment.

Senate Commerce Committee:

Honorable Chair – Rob Olson  
Vice Chair – Mark Steffen  
Ranking Minority – Tom Holland  
Honorable Committee Members

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and esteemed members of the Committee! Thank you for the opportunity to have a hearing, and for allowing me to speak in support of Senate Bill 10 today.

While it is necessary to have occupational licenses, rules and regulations, these can sometimes become very burdensome and limiting for individuals outside the economic mainstream.

While other labor market institutions have been in decline for decades, occupational licensing has grown dramatically. According to a recent article written by Paul Larkin Jr. sixty years ago, America's economy rested on manufactured goods, and only 4 – 5 percent of occupations were subject to a licensing requirement. The percentage of domestic workforce subject to licensing requirements in today's service-oriented economy is no less than 25 percent of the economy. Occupational licensing is now one of the nation's principal forms of economic regulation.

According to a recent study on burdens from occupational licensing by Dick M. Carpenter II, Ph.D., Lisa Knepper, Kyle Sweetland and Jennifer McDonald, roughly 1 in 20 American workers needed an occupational license before they could work in the occupation of their choice. Today, that figure stands at about one in four.

Just because an occupation isn't licensed at the state level doesn't mean it isn't licensed at all. Many counties and municipalities also license occupations, often quite onerously.

In closing the intention of this bill is not to eliminate licensing, rules and regulations in our state. The intention is to ensure that each license, rule and regulation demonstrates legitimate necessary and carefully tailored health, safety, and welfare objectives.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Committee, for your time and consideration. It was an honor to speak before you!

Thank you,

Senator Richard Hilderbrand

District 13