



January 27, 2021

Dear Chairman Olson and Members of the Committee,

I thank you for this opportunity to testify in favor of SB 10, a bill that would institute a review process for Kansas' occupational licenses and provide Kansans an opportunity to challenge onerous requirements that undermine their chance to earn a living.

As part of our broader efforts to reduce employment barriers in Kansas and across the nation, Americans for Prosperity supports SB 10, a bill that would do several important things including:

- Require each Kansas agency to review all occupational rules and regulations, including occupational licensing requirements by July 1, 2022.
- Reduce and remove all regulations within the jurisdiction of each agency to the least restrictive requirements necessary to protect substantiated public health and safety concerns
- Submit a report by October 1, 2022 of all actions taken by the agencies and all actions that should be taken by the legislature to utilize the least restrictive regulation necessary.
- Submit new recommendations and a summary of actions each February 1 thereafter
- Provide Kansas residents with the ability to petition agencies, or file an action in court, to repeal or modify occupational regulations. Agencies have 90 days to make changes or respond with justification for the regulation, and courts will have the ability to invalidate regulations that agencies cannot justify with a preponderance of evidence.

Credentials earned through training and experience are valuable to consumers, businesses, and the government alike for hiring and contracting decisions, but this does not mean government is the best gatekeeper for licenses. [Numerous studies](#) indicate that many government licenses have negative effects on health and safety, meaning there is not a positive tradeoff in return for many licensing barriers in Kansas.

In a [study](#) following just 102 specific low to moderate income occupations across the 50 states, Kansas licenses 35 of those, requiring over 200 calendar days of training on top of fees and other requirements just to obtain permission to work from the Kansas government. 28 of those licenses were [enacted](#) between 1993-2012 alone. This is just a small window into the [many other](#) occupations that require licenses and other burdensome government requirements.

While these licensing requirements are burdensome for all, they are particularly challenging to overcome for those experiencing financial hardship as they seek career paths and critical services for their families. Research shows that in more onerously licensed states, [entrepreneurship](#) rates are lower among low-income residents, [recidivism](#) rates are higher for ex-offenders, and other unintended consequences such as [increased crime rates](#) occur due to decreased employment opportunities.

SB 10 would provide new opportunities for Kansas agencies, lawmakers, courts, and most importantly, Kansas residents to remove overly burdensome and unnecessary occupational restrictions that undermine

opportunity in our state. AFP stands in strong support of this and other occupational licensing reform efforts and urges lawmakers to support this measure.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Patton

State Director

Americans for Prosperity-KS