



# AMERICANS FOR PROSPERITY

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## KANSAS

### Testimony to the Kansas Senate Committee on Commerce

February 24, 2021

Chairman Olson and distinguished members of the Senate Commerce Committee:

I thank you for this opportunity to testify in opposition of SB 176, a bill that would add a new occupational licensing requirement for home inspectors in Kansas.

My name is Elizabeth Patton, and I am State Director of Americans for Prosperity in Kansas. Through broad-based grassroots outreach, AFP is driving long-term solutions to the country's biggest problems. AFP activists engage friends and neighbors on key issues and encourage them to take an active role in building a culture of mutual benefit, where people succeed by helping one another. AFP recruits and unites activists in 35 states behind a common goal of advancing policies that will help people improve their lives.

AFP activists in Kansas oppose SB 176 because the new licensing requirements for home inspectors in Kansas are an undue burden on those seeking to enter the profession as well as customers wishing to utilize the home inspectors of their choosing. Just as approximately<sup>1</sup> 20 other states that have no formal government licensing requirements to be a home inspector, Kansas home inspections were fine before a licensing requirement was enacted in 2009 and after that requirement expired in 2014. While Kansas may expect service providers to be competent and honest before earning their business, these expectations can and have been met using options outside of needless government barriers that benefit special interests and licensing boards at the expense of Kansas families and providers.<sup>2</sup>

Between 1993 and 2012, Kansas added 28 new occupational licenses within low and moderate income professions alone, and overall approximately 16%<sup>3</sup> of Kansans require a government license in order to earn a living in their professions. According to the Institute for Justice, licensing annually costs<sup>4</sup> the Kansas economy over 29,000 jobs, \$197.5 million in deadweight economic losses, \$3.1 billion in misallocated resources, and a price inflation of over 27% for licensed services. Unfortunately, despite all these costs to Kansans, numerous studies<sup>5</sup> have shown licensing to have neutral to even negative effects

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.spectora.com/r/home-inspector-license-requirements-map/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://archbridgeinst.wpengine.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Too-Much-License-1.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <https://ij.org/report/at-what-cost>

<sup>4</sup> <https://ij.org/report/at-what-cost>

<sup>5</sup> [https://ij.org/wp-content/themes/ijorg/images/ltw2/License\\_to\\_Work\\_2nd\\_Edition.pdf](https://ij.org/wp-content/themes/ijorg/images/ltw2/License_to_Work_2nd_Edition.pdf)

on health and safety, meaning there is no benefit to gain in return for erecting a new jobs barrier in Kansas.

Instead of adding new onerous government-mandated licenses, AFP seeks to remove government occupational licensing barriers altogether to help Kansans better provide for their families and grow our economy. We respectfully ask for you to oppose SB 176 and reject the calls by some to add a new, unwarranted government licensing requirement in our state.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Patton

State Director

Americans for Prosperity-Kansas