



Dear Chairman Hilderbrand and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today in support of S.B. 348, a bill that would exempt hair threading from Kansas' cosmetology occupational license. I am here on behalf of thousands of activists from across our state who believe that government should be more efficient and not stand in the way of our growth and prosperity.

Truly, while the cosmetology licensure portfolio broadly should also be a priority in licensing reform for Kansas, S.B. 348 would eliminate unnecessary government licensing barriers for people to earn income through threading, which is not relevant to the purview of cosmetology licensing in the first place.

In Kansas, we are requiring a full license of cosmetology for an occupation and skill which is not taught in any cosmetology schools in the state. We are asking the committee to directly mimic an identical exemption for hair braiders which has been on the books for approximately 7 years in our state. We have been unable to find any examples of harm as a result of the existing exemption. It is a common sense next step to offer hair threading in the same exemption. It is unethical for a board to require a license that takes nearly one year and nearly \$20,000 by some estimations for a skill they do not teach in their classes.

This exemption is long overdue.

Research also 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. In other words, cutting off rungs of the economic ladder for those who are less well off has consequences for not only individuals and their families but for our entire state.

Kansans deserve the dignity of personal choice as consumers and the ability to support their families without undue government burdens as they seek fulfilling work. AFP applauds all who support SB 348 and other legislation that helps reduce government licensing requirements that are all too often anti-competitive, needlessly burdensome, and [ineffective](#) at addressing public health and safety concerns, and I urge members of the committee to advance this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Lueth
Deputy State Director
Americans for Prosperity-Kansas