



House Committee on Commerce, Labor and Economic Development
March 18, 2024
Proponent HB 2826

Dear Chairman Tarwater and Members of Committee,

My name is Elizabeth Patton and I am the State Director of Americans for Prosperity-Kansas. On behalf of thousands of activists across the state, we support this legislation although it is our opinion that it was never needed in the first place. We are pleased at the changes suggested to improve how this impacts our economy and an entire industry. In 2022, we opposed the creation of the elevator safety act which established licensure requirements for elevator technicians and created an elevator safety fee fund. The existence of this bill acknowledges that unnecessary barriers and additional red tape quite easily lead to the loss of business, economic growth and create unnecessary hardships.

Americans for Prosperity is committed to advancing employment policy that empowers people to earn success, contribute to their communities, and live meaningful lives. The dignity of work, choice to pursue the profession of one's choice, and voluntary association are key to a free and thriving labor market. By requiring individuals to meet onerous and unnecessary governmental requirements, occupational licenses create significant barriers to employment and people reaching their true potential.

Today, government licenses limit the ability of millions of Americans to gain employment while also making services less accessible. Nationally, approximately 19% of workers require licenses, which is estimated to annually cost the economy at least 1.8 million jobs, \$6.2 billion in deadweight economic losses, and \$184 billion in misallocated economic resources while increasing costs of services by nearly 14%. We should be focused on helping more people find employment and not erecting additional barriers that will keep Kansans from entering the work field of their choice.

We ask that the committee support these legislative fixes but overall, we would go a step farther by removing this legislation altogether and allowing people to continue to do the good job they did for years in our state before this unwise law existed which caused havoc and economic disaster for many.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Patton
State Director
Americans for Prosperity Kansas