

Committee On Public Health and Welfare
Proponent Written Only Testimony
SB 434
February 12th 2024
Jon Lueth
Deputy State Director AFP KS



Dear Chairwoman Gossage and members of the committee,

On behalf of thousands of activists in Kansas, we appreciate the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of SB 434. Legislation such as this bill can be critical steps to address the red tape that is stifling productivity and creating barriers to economic opportunity for business and families in the sunflower state. It is also an opportunity remove outdated regulations.

Truly, while the cosmetology licensure portfolio broadly should also be a priority in licensing reform for Kansas, S.B. 434 would eliminate unnecessary government licensing barriers for people to earn income through sugaring, 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. 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 434 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,

Jon Lueth

Deputy State Director AFP KANSAS