



Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit WRITTEN-ONLY testimony in support of HB 2506. This bill is but the first step that needs to be taken on the larger issue of occupational licensure.

Our testimony can be summed up with one simple statement – onerous occupational licensure regimes too often put the next rung on the economic ladder out of reach for those most in-need of new economic opportunity.

The Institute for Justice publishes a “License to Work” report about the economic impacts of licensure around the country and in Kansas.<sup>i</sup> Their findings show that Kansas has;

- That 35 of 102 lower-income occupations are licensed
- 40<sup>th</sup> most burdensome licensing laws
- 45<sup>th</sup> most broadly and onerously licensed state

I would refer this report to the committee’s attention.

Kansas is proud of the sacrifice and commitment of our military families. The bill before you today provides a tangible way of helping these families.

But, again, it is but the first step that needs to be taken. Our military families serve and protect the freedoms that make our country uniquely free. Those freedoms include the right to earn a living in an industry of one’s choosing without irrational regulations or an outright protectionist mindset that is too often found in licensing regimes.

We would encourage this committee to support HB 2506 as an initial step to a larger review of Kansas’ occupational licensure regime.

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<sup>i</sup> <https://ij.org/report/license-work-2/tw-state-profiles/tw2-kansas/>