



Micah Derry, State Director  
HOUSE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, COMMERCE & LABOR  
Opponent Testimony on HB 211  
Tuesday September 19, 2017

Chairman Young, Vice Chair DeVitis, Ranking Member Lepore-Hagan, and members of the committee.

On behalf of the Ohio chapter of Americans for Prosperity, the nation's largest free market grassroots advocacy organization with thousands of activists across the state, I urge you to oppose **House Bill 211**. This bill would increase barriers to opportunity for workers across the state of Ohio by adding home inspectors to the long list of professions burdened by unnecessary licensing requirements.

According to the University of Minnesota Professor Morris Kleiner, over 18 percent of all workers have an occupational license in Ohio. That means almost a fifth of those working in the state have to receive a permission slip from the government in order to provide for themselves and their families. This is a massive increase from only a few decades ago, where roughly only 1 in 20 workers required a government permission slip.

Ohio already licenses 31 moderate income occupations, including everything from makeup artists to mobile home installers. The requirements of these licenses serve to restrict competition leading to higher prices for those with licenses and restricted opportunity for those without. These higher prices are felt by consumers, as it is estimated that occupational licenses cost the average Ohio family an additional \$775 per year. Given the damage already caused by Ohio's licensing regime, it makes no sense to expand it.

The many states that do not license home inspectors are not suffering from these issues. I would like to suggest alternatives which could protect consumers without raising prices or restricting opportunity. Moreover, if the state is worried by fly-by-night home inspectors, the state could solve this problem by requiring simple registration with the state. Mandatory licensing is not only damaging, it is unnecessary.

Ohio is already home to countless home inspectors who provide quality work, appropriately regulated by certification. I strongly urge you to reject **House Bill 211** and allow these hard-working individuals to continue to serve their communities, provide for their families, and pursue the American dream.

As it stands, given that this bill increases barriers to entry for the Ohio workforce, Americans for Prosperity – Ohio has flagged this bill for a key vote for our legislative scorecard.

Chairman Young, thank you for this opportunity to testify. I am happy to answer any questions at this time.