

GOLDWATER

I N S T I T U T E

January 28, 2020

Dear Chairman Wiggam, Vice Chair Stephens, Ranking Member Kelly, and members of the Ohio House State & Local Government Committee,

As an attorney who works in courtrooms and legislatures nationwide to protect economic freedom, I urge you to support House Bill 432, which directs Ohio's licensing entities to grant occupational licenses to skilled professionals who have held a valid out-of-state occupational license for at least one year.

Under HB 432, a new resident to Ohio can apply for a license in his or her field and be approved quickly, saving time and money and encouraging a more seamless transition into the workforce. This is good for workers, their families, employers, and the state. Ohio's legislature rightly passed Senate Bill 7 to break down barriers to work for military spouses, and HB 432 would extend this important benefit to all Ohioans.

HB 432 does not challenge licensing or delicense any profession in Ohio. Rather, this bill removes the unnecessary redundancy that comes with requiring professionals to repeat testing and duplicate training in order to continue doing a job they've already been doing safely and productively elsewhere. Workers are still required to apply, demonstrate that they have held a valid license at their desired practice level for at least one year and pay any related fees. Under this proposal, applicants may not be granted a license to practice in Ohio if they are the subject of an investigation, have a pending complaint, or have previously had their license revoked.

In 2019, Arizona became the [first state](#) in the nation to recognize out-of-state occupational licenses, a reform championed by the Goldwater Institute. Previously, Arizona granted licensing reciprocity to members of the military and their spouses; recognizing the success and value of this policy, Arizona's legislators acted to extend the reform to all residents. Thanks to diligent preparation by the state's licensing boards, a backlog of applications cleared through on day one and numerous licenses have since been approved.

At the time, Arizona Governor Doug Ducey explained that, "We know that whether you make your living as a plumber, a barber, a nurse or anything else, you don't lose your skills simply because you pack up a U-Haul truck and make the decision to move to Arizona." Arizona's legislators agreed, passing the bill with bipartisan support in both houses of the legislature. Following Arizona's lead, Pennsylvania recently became the second state to [adopt](#) a version of universal recognition. Pennsylvania's bill was also a bipartisan success in both houses, and was signed into law by Governor Tom Wolf.

This session, a number of states across the country are considering legislation similar to HB 432. Legislators from Alaska to New Hampshire are taking steps to reduce barriers to work in order to welcome workers with open arms, not red tape. Like Arizona, Ohio's economy benefits when employers are able to attract and retain skilled professionals. As America's workforce becomes increasingly mobile, professionals have more choices than ever about where they can live while pursuing their careers. By recognizing out-of-state occupational licenses, Ohio will send a strong message that it respects and values the training and experience of licensed professionals across the country, and signal that workers will find support and opportunity in the state.

With HB 432, Ohio has the opportunity to become the first state in the Midwest to pass this commonsense, pro-growth economic policy, making the Buckeye state an even more attractive place to live and work. I encourage you to support this important reform.

Thank you,
Christina Sandefur
Executive Vice President

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