



### **SB 7: Testimony to the Ohio Senate Health Committee, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021.**

Chairman Lipps, Vice Chair Holmes, Ranking Member Russo, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony today. My name is Jeff Dillon, and I am the Ohio Legislative Director for Americans for Prosperity. AFP is the nation's largest free market advocacy group, with dedicated activists in communities throughout Ohio. Through broad-based grassroots outreach, AFP is driving long-term solutions to the country's biggest problems. AFP activists engage friends and neighbors on key issues and encourage them to take an active role in building a culture of mutual benefit, where people succeed by helping one another. We empower people to improve their lives and the lives of those around them by removing barriers that prevent them from reaching their potential. On behalf of AFP's activist communities across the state, I am before you today to state our support for Senate Bill 7, which would enter Ohio into the Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact.

SB 7 is part of an ever-increasing recognition by observant policymakers that certain barriers imposed by government, while often well-intentioned, in fact do very little to promote public safety, and oftentimes hinder highly trained professionals and workers from making the most of their skillsets, thus depriving them of economic opportunity. The bill will enable occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants from states that join the compact to have more career flexibility, and the public will benefit from that flexibility by gaining more access to OT services.

By passing SB 7, Ohio has the opportunity to be a leader in driving reforms that will improve access to quality health care and make it easier for qualified health care professionals to earn a living within Ohio. As AFP continues to drive reforms to many aspects of current government licensing practices, we urge the committee to support this legislation and open doors to more jobs and access to care in Ohio. I would also like to thank Senator Roegner for her consistent leadership and dedication on these types of issues throughout her legislative career. Thank you again, Chairman, for the opportunity to provide testimony, and I'm happy to answer any questions the committee might have.

*Americans for Prosperity (AFP) exists to recruit, educate, and mobilize citizens in support of the policies and goals of a free society at the local, state, and federal level, helping every American live their dream – especially the least fortunate. AFP has thousands of activists across the nation, a local infrastructure that includes 36 state chapters, and has received financial support from more than 100,000 Americans in all 50 states. For more information, visit [www.AmericansForProsperity.org](http://www.AmericansForProsperity.org).*

