



HOUSE STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE – Proponent Testimony HB
509, March 22nd, 2022

Chairman Wiggam, Vice Chair John, Ranking Member Kelly, and members of the committee, thank you for holding this hearing and for the opportunity to provide testimony.

My name is Jeff Dillon, and I am the Ohio Legislative Director for Americans for Prosperity (AFP). As one of the largest grassroots organizations in the country, AFP is driving long-term solutions to some of the country's biggest problems. Our organization, and its thousands of activists across Ohio, are dedicated to breaking barriers that stand in the way of people realizing their full potential. Removing or reducing these barriers, in whatever forms they take, helps move our society toward one of mutual benefit, where people succeed by helping others improve their lives and by transforming their communities. Accordingly, I urge you to support and favorably report House Bill 509.

AFP consistently advocates in this committee and others in the Ohio General Assembly to revise and streamline occupational licensing barriers; HB 509 does just that. The review process created through SB 255 of the 132nd GA had my organization's strong support at the time, and it is a positive development seeing that process lead to these new policy proposals and modifications. As Reps. John and Fowler Arthur noted during their sponsor testimony, this process led to the review of over 200 licenses issued by 19 boards, and eliminated or modified 29 licenses. This really is what government, especially legislative bodies, ought to be doing constantly and consistently – reviewing years and decades' worth of laws and administrative edicts to see what still makes sense and what doesn't.

Another more general yet positive provision contained within HB 509 requires all state occupational licensing boards to issue a report that addresses the fee structure for each license issued by the board, whether it can more competitively align with the surrounding states, and whether it serves as a financial barrier to licensure. Despite recent headline-grabbing economic

developments, [Ohio has consistently lagged other large states](#) with respect to key economic indicators. Though a small step, by streamlining and revising some occupational licensing barriers, HB 509 will be a welcome step toward revitalizing our state's economic prospects.

AFP would like to thank this committee for undertaking the work laid out in the process created through SB 255, and we would also like to thank Reps. John and Fowler Arthur for carrying this sound legislation.

Thank you again, Mr. Chairman, for the opportunity to offer testimony today. AFP – Ohio supports HB 509 and on behalf of my organization and our affiliated activists, I urge the members of the committee to favorably report this bill. Thank you.

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 more than 3.2 million activists across the nation, a local infrastructure that includes 35 state chapters, and has received financial support from more than 100,000 Americans in all 50 states. For more information, visit www.AmericansForProsperity.org.