



SENATE GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE – Proponent Testimony SB 44,
February 28th, 2023

Chair Roegner, Vice Chair Antani, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson, 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 Senate Bill 44, sponsored by Senator Brenner, which would require state departments, agencies, or offices that issue a license (or another authorization) to practice a trade or profession to require applicants to apply through eLicense Ohio.

This commonsense legislation will reduce barriers for Ohio's workforce by modernizing processes for all applications and administrative updates by requiring electronic interfaces to be made available to all prospective applicants and currently licensed workers. As Senator Brenner alluded to in his sponsor testimony, in this day and age when seemingly everything – signing mortgage documents, scheduling services, shopping, consulting healthcare providers – can be done online, it does not make sense for these processes to still be paper-based in many instances.

SB 44 is a good government bill that will improve the experience for government customers and streamline processes for government employees. During the first hearing of this bill, Sen. Brenner also mentioned that since its introduction he has heard from several state agencies and boards that may like the flexibility to use some other online portal than the one administered by DAS. AFP – Ohio is agnostic as to which system is used and concurs with the bill sponsor that as long as an online option becomes the primary method for these filings, it

will be a step in the right direction. Hopefully this committee can modify the bill language to incorporate that feedback and move this bill in a timely manner.

Thank you again, Madame Chair, for the opportunity to offer testimony today. AFP – Ohio supports SB 44, 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 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.