



**Americans for Prosperity – OH Proponent Testimony, House Bill 59 – House General Government Committee – 11.04.25**

Good afternoon, Chair Ray, Vice Chair LaRe, Ranking Member Brent, and members of the House General Government Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 59. My name is Hannah Kubbins and I'm the Legislative Director for Americans for Prosperity – Ohio (AFP-OH). AFP and its thousands of activists across the state advocate to remove barriers, in whatever form they take, standing in the way of everyone's opportunity to achieve their American dream.

AFP-OH believes government occupational licensing laws and regulations can be barriers that prevent people to earn a fulfilling living and improve the lives of their families and communities. Accordingly, we appreciate the work of this committee and of the sponsors to identify fee reductions, lessen regulatory burden, modify education requirements, and eliminate obsolete licenses in this round of review.

The bill reduces or caps licensing and renewal fees for a wide range of professions, including but not limited to:

- Physician Assistant License – reduced from \$400 to \$100.
  - Biennial renewal – reduced from \$200 to \$100.
- Commercial Fish Handling Permit – reduced from \$65 to \$50.
- Medical License – reduced from \$305 to \$205

Per the sponsors, these fee reductions were established for licenses in instances where Ohio's fees exceeded surrounding states by at least 50%. The bill also limits the ability of boards to increase fees beyond a certain threshold without legislative approval. Capping certain fees ensures predictability and prevents sudden, burdensome increases.

Reduced licensing and renewal fees means more money stays in the pockets of workers and small business owners, which lowers the barriers to entry and ongoing compliance. Lower fees also make Ohio a more attractive place to start or expand a business especially for entrepreneurs and sole proprietors.

House Bill 59 reduces regulatory burden by streamlining application and renewal processes. For many professions, the bill now requires Ohio licensing boards to issue a license to an applicant if:

- The applicant holds a valid license in another state, **or**
- The applicant has satisfactory work experience, a government certification, or a private certification in a state that does not issue that license.

This applies even if the requirements in the other state are not identical if they are substantially equivalent.

Increased reciprocity and streamlined recognition of out-of-state licenses makes it easier for skilled workers to bring their talents to Ohio, addressing workforce shortages and supporting economic growth.

It's important to note that while these processes are streamlined, Boards are still empowered to act against bad actors to protect public health and safety.

House Bill 59 accomplishes what government should do regularly – identifying ways to reduce regulatory burdens or other barriers to entry into the workforce. Decreased fees and red tape provide easier entry into jobs for workers, provide a larger talent pool for small businesses, provide more choices for consumers, and promote a stronger workforce in Ohio. Thank you for the opportunity to testify and for the work of this committee on HB 59. I'm happy to take questions.