



HOUSE COMMERCE & LABOR COMMITTEE – Opponent Testimony, House Bill 129, 6.6.23

Chairman Johnson, Vice Chair Manchester, Ranking Member McNally, 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.

On behalf of Americans for Prosperity and our activists in Ohio, I thank you for this opportunity to testify in opposition to HB 129, a bill that would force commercial roofing contractors to obtain government occupational licenses.

AFP Ohio believes that government should focus on effective oversight of service providers but in the least burdensome ways possible to protect and hold people accountable. While nobody would question the importance of safely built commercial roofing in our state, we can look to the broader oversight and legal powers Ohio government already possesses and utilizes in overseeing the construction of commercial roofing just as numerous other states without licensing mandates do. Adding an additional layer of bureaucracy would place new burdens on people who wish to enter this profession, reduce availability for customers including businesses, and more bureaucracy could undermine broad government oversight rather than enhance public health and safety.

Today, licensing burdens reduce employment opportunities for many Ohioans while cutting off rungs on the economic mobility ladder for people trying to improve their lives. A recent national [study](#) found that current governmental licensing barriers already cost Ohio over 67,750 jobs, \$209 million in deadweight economic losses, and over \$6 billion in misallocated resources annually. In other words, people are spending more than they would have, and on different things, than if Ohio's many government licensing laws weren't creating barriers to needed products and services.

Research also shows that in more onerously licensed states, [entrepreneurship](#) rates are lower among low-income residents, [recidivism](#) rates are higher for ex-offenders, and other unintended consequences such as [increased crime rates](#) occur due to decreased employment opportunities.

Ohioans, and those wishing to move to Ohio to contribute to our economy, deserve the dignity of personal choice as consumers and the ability to support their families without undue government burdens as they seek fulfilling work. While we share a desire to ensure public

health and safety in Ohio, we strongly urge you to oppose HB 129 and the new licensing burdens on commercial roofing contractors that will undermine employment and infrastructure in our state.

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.