



AMERICANS FOR PROSPERITY

March 10, 2021

Dear: Chairman Sutton and members of the Committee

I thank you for this opportunity to testify in opposition of HB 2419, a bill that would add new occupational licensing restrictions for barbers in Kansas.

AFP activists in Kansas oppose HB 2419 because the new licensing requirements for barbers in Kansas are an undue burden on those seeking to enter the profession as well as customers. Among other things, HB 2419 would add increased fees, restrictions on compensation for students, more onerous training requirements, and unnecessary procedures for ex-offenders wishing to enter the profession. While Kansans may expect service providers to be competent and honest, these expectations can and have been met using options outside of needless government licensing barriers that benefit special interests at the expense of Kansas families and providers.

Between 1993 and 2012, Kansas added 28 new occupational licenses within low and moderate income professions alone, and overall approximately 16% of Kansans require a government license in order to earn a living in their professions. According to the Institute for Justice, licensing annually costs the Kansas economy over 29,000 jobs, \$197.5 million in deadweight economic losses, \$3.1 billion in misallocated resources, and a price inflation of over 27% for licensed services. Unfortunately, despite all these costs to Kansans, numerous studies have shown licensing to have neutral to even negative effects on health and safety, meaning there is no benefit to gain in return for erecting a new employment barriers in Kansas.

Instead of adding new onerous government-mandated licensing requirements, AFP seeks to remove government occupational licensing barriers to help Kansans better provide for their families and grow our economy. We respectfully ask for you to oppose HB 2419 and reject calls to add new, unwarranted government licensing requirements in our state.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Lueth
Deputy State Director
Americans for Prosperity-Kansas