



House Health and Human Services Committee

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 348

Presented by Christie Kriegshauser, Senior Director of Government Affairs, Kansas Chamber

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The Kansas Chamber represents small, medium and large businesses of all industry segments across the state. We appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 348 which removes barriers to skilled employment and helps encourage entrepreneurialism.

The Kansas Chamber agenda states that we promote and encourage free enterprise by limiting “financial barriers for business” creation and employment. Even small steps help foster an environment of entrepreneurship and promote job growth.

In 2019, Arizona embraced the spirit of entrepreneurship by recognizing the skills licensed individuals possess by allowing full reciprocity for military spouses with the states issuing their licenses. Today, Arizona’s job growth is 15th in the nation while Kansas ranks 34th in the nation.

By removing threading from the definition of “esthetician”, Senate Bill 348 reduces burdensome red tape and allows for more productive employment. Requiring 1,000 hours of education to become a licensed esthetician, when only 40 of those hours include hair-removal training, is prohibitively expensive. For an individual practicing threading, the 960 hours of training on topics other than hair removal do not increase the safety of the public.

In the 1950’s, only five percent of U.S. jobs required an occupational license, while 30% of jobs require a license today. Two years ago, we read an article that Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes committed a crime by flying his barber into the state of Florida to cut his hair prior to the Super Bowl. The crime was using a non-Florida licensed barber. This is a second-degree misdemeanor with a maximum penalty of 60 days in prison. This requirement has no impact on the public health or safety of Floridians but shows how these laws can become unnecessarily restrictive.

We appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Senate Bill 348.