



**AMERICANS FOR
PROSPERITY®**

NEW JERSEY

**Testimony on Assembly Bill 1452
Assembly Regulated Professions Committee
1:00 PM, Committee Room 15**

Monday, February 22, 2016

Dear Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. My name is Erica Jedynak and I am the New Jersey State Director for Americans for Prosperity. Americans for Prosperity is the foremost advocate of reducing barriers at the state level, so that more people can achieve their version of the American dream. On behalf of more than 103,000 Americans for Prosperity activists in New Jersey, I urge you to vote No on Assembly Bill 1452 as it will not only raise barriers to opportunity, but raise the cost of healthcare on women.

It's no secret that New Jersey has struggled when it comes to job creation and wage growth in recent years. One factor for this slow growth has been that of occupational licenses. According to the Institute of Justice, New Jersey is the 16th most broadly and onerously licensed state. For New Jersey's 48 moderate-to-low income licenses, the state requires an average 292 days of education, one exam, and \$179 in fees. Unfortunately, rather than look for ways to expand opportunities to citizens to make a living for them and their families, this bill will decrease opportunity and limit access to affordable healthcare to women.

Assembly Bill 1452 seeks to license "Lactation Consultants", which would prevent anyone from offering lactation care and services, either compensated or uncompensated, without being licensed by the state.

While ensuring that all women have access to the knowledge and skills needed when becoming new mothers, burdensome licenses will only serve to limit access and increase costs. Currently, only 10 other states license lactation consultants. With no data showing an increase in a new mother's well-being and with little risk to new mothers without these regulations, the need to license lactation consultants seems tenuous at best.

The last thing New Jersey needs is another piece of governmental red tape getting between women and their care providers. Breastfeeding is a beautiful part of life and an innately personal decision for a mother. Do we need government intervention in this area?

I urge you oppose this legislation and stand up not only against unnecessary and intrusive government regulation, but also for new mothers and those that provide the care that they need.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Erica Jedynak". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Erica Jedynak
New Jersey Director
Americans for Prosperity

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Our mission: Americans for Prosperity 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.