



2/25/2018

Dear Lawmakers,

On behalf of Americans for Prosperity activists across the state, I urge you to support HB 2204. This legislation is an important protection of government stewardship and integrity that would prohibit state licensure boards from hiring outside lobbyists to influence lawmakers.

West Virginians face the nation's 14th most broad and onerous licensing laws in the country, according to a recent study from the Institute for Justice.

This study showed that many entry level occupations with few health and safety components have unnecessarily high burdens on individuals seeking to enter the workforce. Sadly, these requirements have served as a barrier to low-income or unemployed West Virginians who simply want to use their skills and talents to make a living for their families.

In many instances, occupational licensing laws have the potential to keep individuals out of the workforce by forcing them to pay the government for a permission slip to work and, under current law, the revenue from those fees can be used to pay outside lobbyists who often work to maintain unnecessary licensing requirements that prevent everyday West Virginians from working in these professions.

As we work to modernize how we regulate various professions and occupations, it should be the responsibility of a boards' members or staff to advocate for the regulatory body, not professional lobbyists who are compensated with taxpayer money. HB 2204 would prohibit this practice, providing an important check on our state government against waste, fraud and abuse.

We ask you to please support this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason Huffman". The signature is stylized and includes a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jason Huffman
West Virginia State Director
Americans for Prosperity

