



**AMERICANS FOR
PROSPERITY®**

WEST VIRGINIA

1/29/2020

Dear Lawmaker:

On behalf of Americans for Prosperity activists across West Virginia, I urge you to support HB 4353, further reforming occupational license revocation procedures. This vote may be recorded in our 2020 session legislative scorecard.

HB 4353, sponsored by Delegate Gary Howell, would double down on the actions already taken by this legislature by removing unjust and unnecessary barriers to opportunity for West Virginians with a past conviction that want to be a law-abiding, contributing member of society. The bill will require occupational boards to more fairly decide whether to revoke someone's license based on criminal history.

- Too many West Virginians are excluded from employment because of past mistakes, no matter how relevant they are to the job they wish to perform.
- HB 4353 prohibits licensing boards from using vague "moral turpitude" clauses to exclude people from jobs merely for having a criminal record.
- Under the cronyist status quo, overly broad exclusion criteria is abused to insulate established businesses from competition, harming former offenders' ability to productively reintegrate into society.
- HB 4353 doesn't require licensing boards to provide a certification to those with a criminal record. It simply ensures they only deny licenses for crimes that bear a "rational nexus" to licensed occupations.

For these reasons, **I ask you to vote yes in support of HB 4353**, and adopt the recommended changes to make the bill as strong as possible.

Sincerely,

Jason Huffman
West Virginia State Director
Americans for Prosperity