



1/20/2020

Dear Lawmaker:

On behalf of Americans for Prosperity West Virginia Activists, **I urge you to support Senate Bill 548, the Universal Recognition Occupational Licensing Act.** This vote may be recorded in our legislative scorecard.

With some additional stipulations such as requiring practitioners to pass background checks, the Universal Recognition Act would allow people moving to West Virginia to practice West Virginia's licensed professions with:

- A government license or certification from another state combined with one year of experience;
- A private sector certification from another state combined with two years of experience; or
- Three years of work experience performing an occupation that is licensed in West Virginia but is not licensed in the state the individual is moving from.

While the most effective form of reciprocity or recognition is to remove government licensing requirements altogether so that professionals can gain experience and training in the private sector without additional government barriers, this universal recognition legislation would provide a significant improvement over the status quo, allowing individuals to move to West Virginia and begin providing valuable services to our state without needless barriers.

AFP believes West Virginians deserve the dignity of personal choice as consumers and the ability to support their families without undue government burdens. While often well-intentioned, today many government occupational licensing requirements are anti-competitive, needlessly burdensome, and [ineffective](#) at addressing public health and safety concerns. As we continue to drive internal occupational licensing reform, we urge you to support this legislation and opens our doors to more jobs and consumer choice in West Virginia.

Sincerely,

Jason Huffman
West Virginia State Director
Americans for Prosperity