



Wednesday, May 13, 2020

Key Vote Alert: Vote “Yes” on SF2898 – Exemptions for Cosmetology Licensure

Dear Members of the Minnesota Senate,

On behalf of Americans for Prosperity activists across Minnesota, I am writing today to urge members to support HF2898, a bill that would exempt a number of activities from cosmetology occupational licenses. Americans for Prosperity is working across the country to reduce barriers to opportunity, and we believe occupational licensing reform is critical for entrepreneurs, job seekers, and consumers in Minnesota.

As a “Key Vote”, Americans for Prosperity – Minnesota may include this vote in our end-of-session Legislative Scorecard that will be shared with your constituents.

Credentials earned through training and experience are valuable to consumers, businesses, and the government for hiring and contracting decisions, but this does not mean government is the best gatekeeper for licenses. In fact, numerous studies indicate that many government licenses have neutral and negative effects on health and safety, meaning there is not a positive tradeoff in return for many licensing barriers. Even without licensing laws, government always has oversight powers to address valid public health and safety concerns, which is why we believe that government should focus less on erecting onerous barriers.

While broader cosmetology licensure should also be in the crosshairs for licensing reform, HF2898 would eliminate unnecessary government licensing barriers for people wishing to practice hairstyling, makeup services, and eyelash extensions. With approximately 22% of Minnesotans requiring a government license in order to work today, these reforms would be a step in the right direction by providing an easier path to fulfilling employment for thousands of individuals.

Research also shows numerous unintended consequences occur in more onerously licensed states, including lower entrepreneurship rates among low-income residents, higher recidivism rates for ex-offenders, and increased crime rates due to decreased employment opportunities. In other words, cutting rungs off the economic ladder for those who are less well-off has consequences for not only individuals and their families but for our entire state.

Minnesotans deserve the dignity of personal choice as consumers and the ability to support their families without undue government burdens as they seek fulfilling work. Thank you for your support of SF2898 and other legislation that helps reduce occupational licensing requirements that are all too often anti-competitive, needlessly burdensome, and ineffective at addressing public health and safety concerns.

Sincerely,

Jason Flohrs
State Director
Americans for Prosperity - Minnesota