

House Committee on Commerce, Labor, and Economic Development

Opposition Testimony on HB 2818 by Kansas State Board of Technical Professions

Chairperson Sean Tarwater and members of the Committee:

Good afternoon, I am Larry Karns, the Executive Director of the Board of Technical Professions.

The Board of Technical Professions is a fee funded licensing agency of the State of Kansas. We currently license 5 professional occupations including professional engineers, professional architects, professional geologists, professional land surveyors and professional landscape architects.

I am here before you today to provide information and concerns regarding HB 2818. Although the bill, primarily addresses regulating not previously regulated occupations, it also addresses increased regulation of occupations regulated by the State of Kansas prior to July 1, 2024.

The bill has many ambiguous provisions. It requires determinations of “least restrictive type of occupational regulation”, “substantial burden”, “if unregulated practice could cause harm”, “the most efficient form of regulation”, “if threat to general welfare is easily predictable”, “if the consumer has challenges”, “if other regulator structures...insufficiently protect the general welfare”, “why the regulation alternative was chosen”, and “the extent to which existing legal remedies are inadequate to prevent or redress the kinds of harm potentially resulting from the lack of requirements outlined in the bill”.

As a regulatory agency, these ambiguous terms are concerning and require subjective criteria open to wide interpretation. I will stand for any questions that you may have at this time.

Larry Karns, Executive Director

March 11, 2024