



Dear Chairman Hilderbrand and members of the committee:

I thank you for this opportunity to testify in opposition to SB 531, a bill that would add a new government occupational licensing mandate for massage therapists in Kansas.

AFP activists in Kansas oppose SB 531 because the new licensing requirements for massage therapists in Kansas are an undue burden on those seeking to enter the profession as well as customers. Kansas currently remains one of multiple states that do not require licensure to practice massage therapy, and while Kansans may expect service providers to be competent and honest, these expectations can and have been met using current options outside of new government licensing barriers that benefit special interests at the expense of Kansas families and providers.

Between 1993 and 2012, Kansas [added](#) 28 new occupational licenses within low and moderate income professions alone, and overall [approximately 16%](#) of Kansans require a government license in order to earn a living in their professions. According to the Institute for Justice, licensing annually [costs](#) the Kansas economy over 29,000 jobs, \$197.5 million in deadweight economic losses, \$3.1 billion in misallocated resources, and a price inflation of over 27% for licensed services. Unfortunately, despite all these costs to Kansans, numerous [studies](#) have shown licensing to have neutral to even negative effects on health and safety, meaning there is no benefit to gain in return for erecting a new employment barriers in Kansas.

Instead of adding new onerous government-mandated licensing requirements, AFP seeks to remove government occupational licensing barriers to help Kansans better provide for their families and grow our economy. We respectfully ask for you to oppose SB 531 and reject calls to add new, unwarranted government licensing requirements in our state.

Sincerely,

Jon Lueth
Deputy State Director
Americans for Prosperity-Kansas