



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 946		DATE: 2/19/2025	
COMMITTEE: Professional Registration and Licensing			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: SHANNON COOPER		PHONE NUMBER: 660-890-1432	
REPRESENTING: UNITED WE		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 208 MADISON STREET			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/19/2025 12:00 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: WESLEY SUTTON		PHONE NUMBER: 573-508-4832	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: DIVISION OF PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATION		TITLE: DIRECTOR OF BUDGET AND LEGISLATION	
ADDRESS: 3605 MISSOURI BLVD			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/19/2025 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C. "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: arniedienoff@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/19/2025 11:45 PM
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I am Opposed to this Bill. This Change in Legislation is Picking Winners and Losers and who gets special treatment for Professional Licenses.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: CONOR NORRIS		PHONE NUMBER: 917-817-3024	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: KNEE REGULATORY RESEARCH CETNER		TITLE: DIRECTOR OF LABOR POLICY	
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CITY: MORGANTOWN		STATE: WV	ZIP: 26506
EMAIL: Joana.dasilvagonzalez@mail.wvu.edu		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2025 5:43 PM
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Putting up the Welcome Sign for Law Enforcement Spouses
Conor Norris Director of Labor Policy, Knee Regulatory Research Center, West Virginia University House Professional Registration and Licensing Committee February 19, 2025
 Chair Coleman, Vice Chair Parker, and all distinguished members of the House Professional Registration and Licensing Committee: Thank you for allowing me to testify on occupational regulation in Missouri. I am the director of labor policy at the Knee Regulatory Research Center at West Virginia University. The main takeaways of my comments are the following:

1. Families of law enforcement often face hurdles due to state-based licensing laws.
2. Research shows that occupational licensing restricts geographic mobility by 7 percent.
3. Recognizing out-of-state licenses for law enforcement spouses is an excellent way to help members of law enforcement and their families.

First Lady Michelle Obama first called attention to the difficulties facing military families in 2011. States responded in various ways, including streamlining licensing requirements for military spouses moving into their jurisdiction. Missouri responded with a military spouse licensing reform, and policymakers should be commended for acting so quickly. Like military spouses, the families of law enforcement face similar challenges due to state-level licensing laws. Because state licensing boards oversee each profession, individuals moving to a new state must reapply for licensure and demonstrate that they meet the necessary requirements. This process adds another hurdle to the already difficult experience of relocating, which can discourage professionals from moving altogether. Research estimates that licensing laws reduce geographic mobility by 7 percent.

1 Law enforcement and military spouse licensing recognition laws are similar to universal recognition laws, which are effective at reducing unemployment and increasing migration into a state.

2 Missouri already has a military spouse licensing recognition law in place; however, there is room for improvement. That is why HB 946 is so important. This bill extends the expedited licensure process for military spouses to the spouses of law enforcement. In practice, this means if a member of law enforcement moves to Missouri, their spouse will be able to begin working with minimal delay. This bill would help make this transition significantly easier. Occupational licensing establishes minimum education and training requirements to ensure that professionals possess the necessary skills for the job. Thankfully, this bill is designed in a way that maintains quality standards while taking meaningful steps to support law enforcement and their families. While this may seem like a minor change, it can have a significant impact on them and their families. Given the challenges law enforcement and their spouses already face, forcing them to navigate unnecessary bureaucratic hurdles before they can begin working is particularly burdensome. HB 946 is not a silver bullet for addressing workforce shortages or easing all difficulties for law enforcement families, but it is a commonsense reform that can make a real difference. We ask members of law enforcement and their families to make considerable sacrifices for us. Let's not make their lives any harder than necessary.

Conor Norris

1. Janna E. Johnson and Morris M. Kleiner, "Is Occupational Licensing a Barrier to Interstate Migration?" *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy* 12, no. 3 (2020): 347–73. 2. Bae, Kihwan and Edward Timmons. (2023). Now You Can Take It with You: Effects of Occupational Credential Recognition on Labor Market Outcomes. Available at SSRN 4389898; Deyo, Darwynn, and Alicia Plemmons. (2022). "Have license, will travel: Measuring the effects of universal licensing recognition on mobility." *Economics Letters* 219: 110800.