



TO: SENATE COMMERCE COMMITTEE
DATE: January 27, 2021
FROM: Andy Sanchez, Executive Secretary-Treasurer, KS AFL-CIO
RE: Written Testimony in Opposition to SB 10

Chairman Olson and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to share our deep concern about Senate Bill 10. It is our concern that should this bill become law, both the general public and employees performing the work would be at risk for harm. The Kansas AFL-CIO and its affiliates have long been advocates for the safety of workers and SB 10 is a direct conflict with this, one of our core missions.

Members of Kansas AFL-CIO represent over 65,000 workers across the state. Each industry which includes both manufacturing and building construction trades take a great deal of pride in both safety and training. Doing a job right the first time is what you get when you hire well trained and experienced workers certified and / or licensed in a specific occupation. Most skilled training programs in construction have moved from 4-year apprenticeship programs to 5-year apprenticeship programs that include 10,000 hours of classroom instruction.

We urge this committee to maintain value in licensure, certification, even registration similar to the Roofing legislation passed a few years ago and supported by the State Attorney General. We really can't prevent all work of an inferior nature that puts the general public at risk for harm financially or physically, but these standards of licensure, certification and registration is the only way we can come close to protecting consumers and workers.

Much of the harm to the public such as this goes unnoticed, and we believe the intent of the bill is to say "we are open for business" in Kansas to keep young people in the state and draw new people to our state. But SB 10 would open the flood gates for problems of both consumers and workers. The only business that might truly flourish for a sustained time will be litigation.

While most accidents that we hear about of a serious nature are rare due to responsibilities related to performing "shoddy" workmanship, they can be of a catastrophic nature. It is with lawmakers like yourself that the public is certain and assured of some accountability for people to perform an occupation. Thus, we ask for your help to prevent the lowering of standards in our state. Please oppose SB 10. Thank you for this opportunity for input.