



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
EXECUTIVE OFFICE  
LANSING

RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

BRIAN CALLEY  
LT. GOVERNOR

March 16, 2015

The Honorable Arlan Meekhof  
Senate Majority Leader  
P.O. Box 30036  
Lansing, MI 48909

The Honorable Kevin Cotter  
Speaker of the House of Representatives  
P.O. Box 30014  
Lansing, MI 48909

Gentlemen:

Michigan directly regulates more than 100 occupations, whether through licensure, registration, or listings. In many cases, the licensure and regulation are necessary to protect the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the state of Michigan. However, occupational regulations also have a negative effect – whether intended or not – of raising barriers to entry into a particular profession, thereby limiting competition. Recent studies have identified Michigan as the 6<sup>th</sup> most heavily-regulated state in terms of occupational licensing.

Being free to practice one's chosen trade is a fundamental aspect of the pursuit of happiness. Licensing imposes additional costs on practitioners and their businesses, and ultimately on Michigan consumers who patronize these professionals. Occupational regulations expand the size and scope of state government, and divert staff time and taxpayer funds.

Over the last few years, The Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs has worked together with the Office of Regulatory Reinvention and recommended 18 occupations for deregulation. I signed into law bills that eliminated 7 occupations. The occupations include auctioneers, community planners, dieticians and nutritionists, immigration clerical assistants, interior designers, ocularists, and proprietary school solicitors. Together, the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs will continue to work with the Office of Regulatory Reinvention to focus on implementing additional recommendations and getting legislation introduced to eliminate occupations for deregulation that have a negative effect and thereby limiting competition in Michigan.

Going forward, we need to continue to exercise diligence and caution in determining whether to impose new regulations or requirements on any occupations – whether previously unregulated or not – and we should enact new restrictions only when they are absolutely necessary to protect the public welfare. To that end, I want to advise you of several principles that I and my administration intend to follow when determining whether to support any legislation providing for additional occupation regulation.

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1. There must be a substantial harm or danger to the public health, safety, or welfare as a result of unregulated practice, which will be abated through licensure.
2. The practice of the occupation must require highly specialized education or training.
3. The cost to state government of regulating the occupation must be revenue neutral.
4. There must be no alternatives to state regulation of the occupation (such as national or third-party accreditations) which adequately protect the public.
5. The scope of practice must be clearly distinguishable from other licensed, certified, and registered occupations.
6. Regulation through registration or listing (as opposed to licensure) does little to protect public health and welfare, and is not an appropriate use of government resources.

Additional criteria and guidance for applying these principles can be found in the Office of Regulatory Reinvention's Occupational Licensing Recommendations (which are available at [www.Michigan.gov/ORR](http://www.Michigan.gov/ORR) ).

We must be thoughtful going forward, but we must also be diligent in our review of the current regulations which elevated Michigan among the most heavily-regulated states for occupational licensing. Serious consideration will not be given to enacting any new occupational licensing regimes until there is action by the legislature to evaluate existing occupational regulations and repeal those which do not meet the foregoing criteria, are not critical to public safety and welfare, and exist only to provide a commercial advantage to their advocates.

By critically examining Michigan's existing occupation regulations and enacting new regulatory schemes only in the most urgent circumstance, we will reduce costs for Michigan professionals and small businesses and create a more limited and efficient state government.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rick Snyder", written in a cursive style.

Rick Snyder  
Governor