

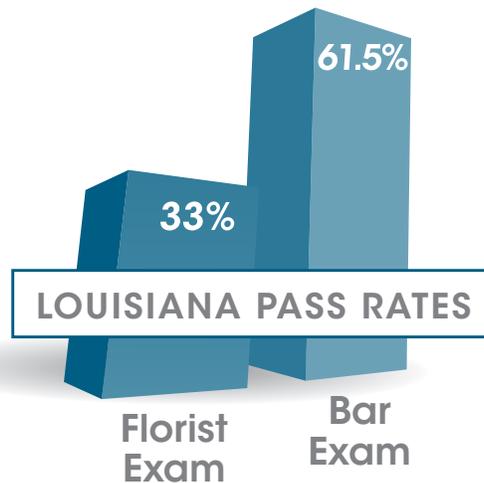
Licensing Board Lobbying Ban

Special interests seek to limit competition by influencing state lawmakers to require restrictive licenses for thousands of occupations



After moving to Monroe, Louisiana following the death of her husband, **Sandy Meadows** found fulfilling work creating floral arrangements that connected with her customers. She loved her job and after nine years was so well-respected that she was asked to take over the floral department at her local Albertson's - *a dream come true for Sandy.*

However, there was just one problem. The state licensing board threatened to shut down the department because Louisiana required her to take a licensing exam to keep her job. She took the test three times but was unable to meet the state's expectations - despite her solid hands-on experience and reputation. They were forced to let her go.



That's right. Even though florists don't threaten public safety, **it's twice as hard to become a florist as a lawyer in Louisiana**, and Sandy lost her dream job.



**OUR
SOLUTION**

Put the people back in charge.
Break the licensing boards' stranglehold on opportunity and ban them from hiring lobbyists.



Licensing Board Cronyism Hurts Aspiring Workers

Special interests shouldn't decide who gets to work and who is left behind



Juan Carlos Montes de Oca wanted to give back to his community. Formerly homeless, Juan Carlos organized Haircuts for the Homeless to offer barber services and manicures to homeless people in memory of his late mother, who loved having her hair styled.

After receiving a complaint, the Arizona Board of Cosmetology decided to investigate and the executive director of the state board shut Juan Carlos down, claiming that practicing cosmetology without a license poses a "real risk" to public safety.

Arizona Governor Doug Ducey stepped in to stop the madness. In a letter that he hand-delivered to the Board of Cosmetology, Governor Ducey asked them to immediately end their investigation with no penalties to Juan Carlos. He berated the board for threatening charitable work and called Juan Carlos's story "inspiring." **The board dropped their investigation, and Juan Carlos now continues giving back to his community.**



Because of online platforms like Rover, many people can earn money doing something they love—like watching pets. **Lisa Jacobson**, a single mother from Colorado, joined Rover when she was between jobs to support her family. Because of her experience working with animals with anxiety, Lisa earned a five-star rating on Rover and her business grew.

But a large commercial kennel from Lisa's town filed a complaint after running a sting operation to prove that Lisa was watching pets without a commercial kennel license. A state inspector informed Lisa that she would have to shut down her business or obtain a kennel license from the state. To apply for a license, Lisa would need to submit a \$400 nonrefundable application fee. Sadly, Lisa's home would never be approved—the state does not allow commercial kennels to have carpet or hardwood floors, so Lisa would need to completely tear apart her family's home.

Lisa's family needed the money, but she made the tough decision to remove her profile from Rover and shut down her business. She later testified in favor of a Colorado bill that would legalize pet sitting. During a hearing, a representative from the Colorado Department of Agriculture even said that it is illegal for a child to watch a friend's gerbil for a few days and a couple dollars, showing how **kennel licensing protects commercial kennels' profits more than public safety.**



BOTTOM LINE

It takes an average of six years to become a licensed interior designer, yet it takes an average of only 33 days to become an EMT. It shouldn't take nearly 70 times as long to become an interior designer as it does to become someone who is responsible for life or death. This broken system is more about satisfying special interest groups than protecting public safety.