



DISCUSSING Universal Licensing Recognition



Across the country, employers are desperate for workers, but many would-be workers face barriers to getting and filling empty jobs. Between 25 and 30 percent of all jobs require an occupational license, but these licenses and work experience are often not recognized when workers move to a different state. As a result, licensed workers are less likely to move, reducing mobility and limiting their economic opportunity. Varying standards between states force workers to pay high fees and can cause workers to lose out on wages during their transition, even resulting in unemployment or a shortage of workers. States should simplify the licensing process for those who are moving by recognizing their licenses and work experience.

**Voters support licensing reciprocity and recognition
for workers who are relocating.**

What messages really move them? These messages work best.

- ▶ **Thirty-seven states have licensing laws in place to benefit military spouses**, many of whom relocate frequently and often struggle to find work as a result.
- ▶ With licensing reciprocity and recognition, workers would still be **required to go through any required background checks**.
- ▶ Workers would still be **held to the same standards and those workers already licensed** in states.
- ▶ There are a **record number of open jobs across the country** and employers are desperate to fill open jobs with workers.
- ▶ Occupational licensing reform could help **prevent workers from falling into government dependency**.
- ▶ Occupational licensing reform could **provide more options for American consumers**.

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Universal Licensing Recognition

	ALL VOTERS	GOP	DEM	IND
Would you be more or less likely to support occupational licensing reform if you knew that workers would still go through any and all required background checks?				
More likely	74%	74%	71%	77%
Less likely	7%	8%	5%	7%
Unsure	19%	18%	24%	16%
Would you be more or less likely to support occupational licensing reform if you knew that 37 states have licensing laws in place to benefit military spouses?				
More likely	74%	76%	74%	72%
Less likely	10%	7%	14%	11%
Unsure	16%	18%	12%	17%
Would you be more or less likely to support occupational licensing reform if you knew that it would be beneficial to military spouses, who often struggle to find work because of frequent relocation?				
More likely	73%	73%	70%	75%
Less likely	7%	9%	5%	8%
Unsure	20%	18%	24%	16%
Would you be more or less likely to support occupational licensing reform if you knew that these workers would be held to the same standards as workers licensed in your state?				
More likely	71%	72%	70%	72%
Less likely	6%	6%	5%	8%
Unsure	22%	22%	25%	20%
Would you be more or less likely to support occupational licensing reform if you knew that it could provide more options for American consumers?				
More likely	70%	72%	70%	69%
Less likely	13%	11%	12%	16%
Unsure	17%	17%	18%	16%
Would you be more or less likely to support occupational licensing reform if you knew that it could prevent workers from falling into government dependency?				
More likely	70%	77%	63%	72%
Less likely	15%	13%	19%	12%
Unsure	14%	9%	18%	16%
Would you be more or less likely to support occupational licensing reform if you knew that there are a record number of job openings and employers are desperate to fill those jobs?				
More likely	70%	72%	67%	70%
Less likely	16%	15%	16%	16%
Unsure	15%	13%	17%	14%
Would you be more or less likely to support occupational licensing reform if you knew that it could make it easier for people who moved away from their home states to move back home and continue working?				
More likely	69%	70%	69%	68%
Less likely	11%	12%	10%	10%
Unsure	20%	18%	21%	22%
Would you be more or less likely to support occupational licensing reform if you knew that it could grow the tax base of your state?				
More likely	66%	69%	65%	66%
Less likely	13%	9%	16%	15%
Unsure	20%	22%	20%	19%
Would you be more or less likely to support occupational licensing reform if you knew that it could attract young people to your state who want to work?				
More likely	61%	64%	67%	49%
Less likely	20%	17%	14%	30%
Unsure	19%	19%	19%	20%