



State of California

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June 21, 2019

The Honorable Anthony Portantino, Chair
Senate Committee on Appropriations
State Capitol, Room 2206
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SUPPORT FOR ASSEMBLY BILL 476 (Rubio)

Dear Senator Portantino,

The Little Hoover Commission supports AB 476 (Rubio), which would require the Department of Consumer Affairs to create a task force to study the licensing of foreign-trained professionals and submit a report of its findings and recommendations with the goal of integrating foreign-trained professionals into the state's workforce.

In its 2016 report, *Jobs for Californians: Strategies to Ease Occupational Licensing Barriers*, the Commission found that, "foreign-trained workers often have difficulty translating their education and experience into state licensing requirements and often take lower-skilled jobs instead." The Commission also learned that foreign-trained professionals often possess language and cultural competencies that make it possible to meet the needs of California's diverse population. The Commission concluded that, "With worker shortages looming in mid- and high-skilled professions the state should embrace these workers instead of erecting barriers to keep them out of jobs."

AB 476 would establish a task force to help identify potentially unnecessary licensing barriers and recommend how to integrate foreign-trained professionals into the state's workforce. For these reasons the Little Hoover Commission supports AB 476 and encourages an AYE vote. If I or my staff can provide any further assistance as the bill moves through the legislative process, please do not hesitate to ask.

Sincerely,

Pedro Nava
Chairman

C: Members, Senate Committee on Appropriations; Samantha Liu, Consultant, Senate Committee on Appropriations; Commissioners, Little Hoover Commission