

# REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

## **JOBS FOR CALIFORNIANS: STRATEGIES TO EASE OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING BARRIERS**

- Occupational licensing is a bipartisan issue. Our work comes out of the July 2015 White House report on occupational licensing. It raised many of the same issues.
- One in five Californians must receive permission from the government to work. This is up from one in 20 nationally in the 1950s.
- Licensing creates barriers to entry for good jobs. To enter a lower-income licensed occupation in California, applicants, on average, pay \$300 in licensing fees, spend 549 days in education and training and pass one exam.
- Licensing disproportionately impacts former offenders, military spouses, veterans and people educated or trained outside of California.
- Californians of modest means are hurt twice: when they encounter barriers to entering licensed occupations, and when they pay more for services provided by licensed occupations.
- Occupational licensing raises costs to consumers. Economists estimate consumers pay an additional \$200 billion more per year due to occupational licensing.
- The purpose of occupational licensing is consumer protection. Newer goals – driving the expansion of licensed occupations – include professionalizing occupations, guaranteeing quality and limiting competition.
- Licensing is a national security issue. Military spouses often can't work due to delays or denials when transferring out-of-state licenses to California. 68 percent of service members say their spouse's ability to maintain a career is a key factor when deciding to reenlist.
- Discharged veterans have a hard time translating military education and experience to civilian requirements. Taxpayers pay twice when veterans have to re-do training: once for the veteran's initial training in the military, and again afterward through the G.I. Bill.
- Former offenders report arbitrary decision-making and lost opportunities when assessed by licensing authorities. Former offenders with jobs stabilize their families and communities.
- Foreign-trained workers have a hard time translating their foreign-earned experience to California requirements. Many of these workers are qualified for occupations where California faces worker shortages. Nurses. Dentists. Primary care physicians.