



Resolution Safeguarding Licensure Standards to Ensure Public Safety

WHEREAS, the State of Montana currently enjoys a robust and industry-driven professional and occupational licensure system, with 19 percent of Montana's workforce being employed in a licensed profession; and

WHEREAS, licensed professions and occupations require specialized skills, certifications, and trainings due to their technical and sometimes high-risk nature; and

WHEREAS, quality licensure and professional standards are necessary to ensuring both workplace and public safety; and

WHEREAS, weakening reciprocity standards between Montana licensed professionals and professional from other states will result in Montanans needing to meet higher requirements for licensure than out-of-state workers and some states will not reciprocate equally or at all to Montana; and

WHEREAS, the 2023 Legislature considered a number of efforts that threatened to weaken, undermine and undercut Montana's professional licensure system, including the elimination of certain licensing boards, the prohibition of qualified members of associations from serving on boards, and efforts to transfer authority to determine substantial equivalency from the boards to the Department of Labor; and

WHEREAS, continued efforts to weaken Montana's professional and occupational licensure system are likely.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Montana State AFL-CIO reaffirms its commitment to supporting a robust and fair professional and occupational licensure system.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Montana State AFL-CIO will continue to engage in legislative advocacy to prevent the weakening or elimination of Montana's professional and occupational licensure standards.