



**AMERICANS FOR
PROSPERITY®**
ALASKA

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April 5, 2016

Kurt Olson
Chairman
House Labor and Commerce Committee
Juneau, AK

Chairman Olson,

Thank you for taking the time to consider this letter. As the Alaska State Director of Americans for Prosperity, I write to inform you of our opposition to SB 158 and HB 281, relating to real estate broker licensure. Americans for Prosperity is a grassroots organization devoted to promoting free-market policies that will allow individuals to succeed.

If enacted, SB 158 would require potential real estate brokers to complete 30 hours of education approved by the real estate commission (commission), double the current requirement. The legislation also requires potential brokers to have at least four years of active and continuous experience as a real estate licensee within the 60 months immediately preceding application for the broker license. The current requirement is two years of active experience within 36 months of the application.

Proponents of SB 158 argue that the legislation better protects the public by doubling the existing education and experience requirements, which are approved by the commission. In reality, the legislation is intended to limit the amount of applicants who will successfully become brokers. The legislation is an attempt to restrict who becomes a broker. If enacted, the legislation will reduce competition and become a barrier to entry.

The recent trend of passing legislation to “better protect the public” by adding layers of bureaucracy is extremely troubling. In Alaska, it is easier to become an Emergency Medical Technician than a cosmetologist. Creating barriers to entry protects a certain class of people in the workforce, while providing no measurable benefit to the general public.

Please oppose SB 158 and HB 281.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Price
State Director
Americans for Prosperity - Alaska