

# THE ALLIANCE FOR RESPONSIBLE PROFESSIONAL LICENSING



## WHO WE ARE

The Alliance for Responsible Professional Licensing (ARPL) is a coalition of national associations representing highly complex, technical professions and their licensing boards. Our members include engineers, surveyors, architects, landscape architects, and CPAs.

ARPL represents a substantial economic and social force:



Our **1.35 million professionals** work in every state and congressional district



Our members are **critical to major corporations, small businesses, and governments**



Our professions are **essential to America's economy and infrastructure**

## WHAT WE DO

Our professions provide technical expertise that underpins critical infrastructure, financial systems, and public safety. We **design and construct the built environment** – schools, parks, shopping centers, hospitals, bridges, and roads that communities depend on – and **ensure the integrity of our financial systems**, including personal tax filings, corporate audits, state government budget certifications, pensions and 401(k)s.

## OUR LICENSURE: RIGOROUS FOR A REASON

Our professions require rigorous licensing because the consequences of our work extend far beyond individual clients to affect entire communities and systems. We are entrusted with certifying compliance with complex codes and laws, and we bear legal responsibility for our work. **Public safety depends on the verified qualifications our licensing ensures.** When an engineer designs a bridge that thousands cross daily, when an architect plans a school where children gather, or when a CPA audits a pension fund that retirees depend on, there is **simply no room for error.**

That is why rigorous licensing standards are essential for our professions. Licensing ensures that practitioners meet minimum qualifications across three critical areas – the Three E's:



Education that provides technical knowledge



Examination that verifies competency



Experience through supervised practice

Our licensing systems also **enable professional mobility.** Because standards are consistent, states can recognize the underlying quality of licenses earned elsewhere, meaning that licensed professionals can work on out-of-state projects or relocate while maintaining their careers.

## AN IMPORTANT DISTINCTION

There is a **fundamental difference** between highly complex, technical professions that have a clear and substantial impact on the public at large and the trade and vocational occupations at the heart of licensing reform efforts.

### ARPL PROFESSIONS IMPACTING THE PUBLIC AT LARGE



### OCCUPATIONS SERVING INDIVIDUAL CLIENTS



This critical difference has gotten lost in recent years. What started as legitimate, sensible calls for occupational licensing reform have been taken to extremes. Lawmakers are now considering overly broad licensing bills that would weaken or outright eliminate licensing standards for ARPL professions with no regard for public safety impacts.

**One size does not fit all.** Using occupations like florists and nail technicians as poster children for weakening or eliminating all licensing is not only misleading but poses real harm to the public when these arguments are extended to professions like ours.

These proposals would **eliminate the ability to establish, verify, and enforce qualifications** in fields where mistakes can be catastrophic. The stakes are simply much higher around the integrity of a bridge or the accuracy of a financial audit than a bad haircut or floral arrangement.

## THE PUBLIC AND BUSINESS COMMUNITY VALUE LICENSING

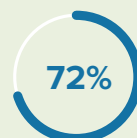
The public understands what's at stake. A recent survey of U.S. voters found:



believe it is critical for our professions to meet rigorous standards



agree that licensing is critical for guaranteeing professional qualifications



say that licensing keeps the public safe

The business community shares this view. A separate survey of U.S. business leaders found:



consider it important to require ARPL professions to have a license to practice



believe professional licensing protects the public from receiving substandard work



recognize that lowering licensing standards would increase the public's risk of harm

## OUR COMMITMENT

ARPL represents 1.35 million professionals committed to maintaining the rigorous licensing standards that the public expects and values. We welcome the opportunity to share our expertise and help states advance solutions that address occupation-specific licensing challenges *without* compromising standards for high-impact professions.

For more information, visit [responsiblelicensing.org](https://responsiblelicensing.org)