



"BUYER BEWARE" AKA CONSUMER CHOICE LEGISLATION

In recent years, lawmakers and advocates across the political spectrum have begun focusing on ways to make it easier for lower-income people, or those with criminal histories, to find meaningful, well-paying work. Licensing requirements have been of particular interest because some people believe they create barriers to employment. The National Society of Professional Engineers urges lawmakers to commit to responsible reforms and reject "buyer beware"-style legislation that puts the public risk.

Key Points

- "Buyer beware" legislation, sometimes referred to as "consumer choice," allows unlicensed people to practice licensed professions, including those like engineering, that are highly technical.
- Unlicensed practitioners do not have to meet basic education or experience requirements.
- Minimal disclosure is required, which puts consumers at serious risk of unknowingly hiring an unlicensed person.

Action Items

- Reject "buyer beware" legislation, especially model bills that do not consider the nuances of a particular state or profession.
- Advocate for a narrowly tailored approach to licensing reform.
- Recognize that all occupations and professions are not created equal and that rigorous licensing standards for highly technical professions protect the public.