



Charles S. Owens, State Director
115 W. Allegan / Suite 600 / Lansing, MI 48933
(517) 485-3409

**Testimony on Local Occupational Licensing
House Local Government Committee
Wednesday, May 23, 2018**

My name is Charlie Owens and I am the State Director for NFIB, an advocate for Michigan small businesses owners since 1943. We are here today to support House Bills 5955-5965 that would prohibit local units of government from being allowed to license at a local level for occupations that are already licensed at the state level.

Rules and regulations have a disproportionate impact on smaller companies. Research has shown that this difference can be as much as 36 percent between the costs incurred by small firms when compared with their larger counterparts.

Small business cannot afford to keep up with overlapping local ordinances and rules. In a recent survey of our small business members, they supported action by the state legislature to preempt local governments from setting up their own regulatory program that duplicates or exceeds the requirements of an already existing state or federal regulation.

The legislature and the Governor have worked hard to revive Michigan's economy. Local government micro-management of small business and employers undoes much of the work that you have done to make Michigan a great place to start a business, grow a business, or locate a business. Companies considering locating in Michigan will take note of activist local governments that pile on additional regulations and fees to their employer citizens. Companies already in Michigan that are relocating or expanding will avoid these areas much to the detriment of potential employees and customers in the locality.

These House Bills are common sense legislation that will rein in local governments that seek to develop rules and ordinances stricter than already existing state and federal laws and we look forward to working with you to move these bills forward.

Thank you for your support of Michigan small business.