



Chairman Rowe and Honorable Members of the House GOP Policy Committee,

On behalf of Americans for Prosperity Pennsylvania, the commonwealth's largest grassroots organization, and our tens of thousands of activists across all 67 counties, I want to thank you for the opportunity to advocate on behalf of the most important constituency in Harrisburg: the Pennsylvania taxpayer.

June marks the start of budget season—and there's never been a more important time than now to promote common-sense, pro-growth policy ideas. As we speak, Governor Shapiro and House Democrats are advocating for policies that increase spending by 7.5% over last year's budget, continuing to feed into our structural deficit.

As a result, Pennsylvania taxpayers will pay—and this will continue to drive out our population as they flee for greener pastures.

We must do better. This budget season, as we work to avoid June Gloom and create a brighter, sunnier path to fiscal prosperity for the Commonwealth, AFP-PA's activists bring to the table several recommendations for making Pennsylvania prosper by reining in regulatory barriers.

Did you know that Pennsylvania is the 14th most regulated state in the nation? According to Mercatus Center, Pennsylvania currently competes with states like New York, New Jersey, and California for a race to the bottom—or, a race to see who can regulate their state out of business. If we strive to be “competitive as hell” with our neighboring states such as Ohio and West Virginia, we can do so by reining in the administrative state and restoring legislative oversight over regulations with a price tag of over \$1 million. The REINS Act, or Regulations from the Executive In Need of Scrutiny, is sweeping the nation. Five states

across the country have enacted the REINS Act this year, and three states such as Ohio and North Carolina have made strides to get this done in short order. Pennsylvania can be set up for success by ensuring that taxpayers have greater oversight over regulations that impact their livelihoods.

Regulations imposed on Pennsylvanians stretch just beyond economic red tape. In fact, one of the greatest burdens to high quality, low cost health care takes the form of occupational licensing barriers. In Pennsylvania, we face a critical health care shortage, yet qualified advanced practice registered nurses face onerous and costly hurdles to practice to the fullest extent of their education. Legislation introduced in both chambers, both with bipartisan support, would alleviate the burden to practice in regions of the Commonwealth where health care practitioners are sorely needed. By removing the burden of physician collaborative agreements after 3,600 hours, or three years, APRNs may then practice to the fullest extent of their expertise and help ensure that wait times are low, and quality of care is high.

Finally, through comprehensive land use reform, Harrisburg can work to deliver common-sense policies that drive up housing availability, and subsequently lower the cost of housing for renters and homebuyers. According to the National Association of Homebuyers, in 2024, almost half of Americans couldn't afford to purchase a \$250,000 home. Through sound reforms such as eliminating single-family zoning laws and allowing for duplexes, triplexes, and quadplex housing, increased supply will avoid prohibitive pricing for buyers and renters. Additionally, Harrisburg can take action to prevent commercial-only zoning, which would allow for mixed-use buildings that will create availability, as well as address the issue of post-COVID offices that sit vacant across Pennsylvania.

We can, and must, get to work to create a more prosperous Pennsylvania. As spending proposals and new regulations rear their ugly heads this June, our taxpayer activists urge you to rein in the red tape that makes housing less affordable, health care less accessible, and prevents Pennsylvanians from living out their American Dream.

I thank you for your time today, and welcome any questions.