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OPINION | LETTERS

Creating More Opportunity for the Unskilled

This is an issue where the ACLU and the Koch Brothers have many similar perspectives. Democrats and Republicans should, as well.



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Nov. 30, 2017 2:32 p.m. ET

You're right that "giving the poor a pathway to a dignified, self-supporting life should be a bipartisan priority" ("Licenses to Kill Opportunity," Review & Outlook, Nov. 25). That's why last year, a bipartisan group of Delaware legislators and community leaders followed through on an executive order I signed as governor to remove barriers to entry to many

careers. We had previously seen some success in increasing opportunities for people to enter the barbering and cosmetology fields and believe there are plenty of opportunities that can be available.

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Jack Markell

Wilmington, Del.

Mr. Markell was governor of Delaware 2009-17.

Even though as you write "licensing proponents claim they're merely protecting public health," like many claims by self-imposed regulators there is no properly done scientific evidence proving such. We have seen the same false claims by the American Board of Medical Specialties and government regulators that have pushed "maintenance of certification" (MOC). Even after 11 to 19 years of higher education and training, physicians who are already board certified and who get continuing medical education for 50 or more hours to renew their state medical licensure, are now being forced to get a MOC. The boards have accumulated \$700 million of assets from fees for these exams and busy work, none of which have been scientifically proven to improve health care. Every dollar wasted on unnecessary administrative burden costs the consumers of health care money. Even those of us directly responsible for protecting public as well as individual health cannot escape both governmental as well as self-appointed federally connected quality regulators that create their own metrics to prove their own worth without ever improving the health of Americans.

Howard C. Mandel, M.D., FACOG

Los Angeles

At 76 I look back on my teenage years working as a lawn-cutter for neighbors, a helper for

glaziers and tree trimmers, a restaurant dishwasher and a short-order cook while I attended and graduated from a first-rate Catholic high school. While in college I worked as a laborer and wildlife refuge assistant and law-enforcement officer. While I waited for admission to the Navy, I worked as a flatbed semi-truck driver. On discharge from the Navy, I conducted my own business as a tree-trimmer and patio installer as I waited to find a job as a wildlife biologist, my chosen profession. As best I can tell from your editorial, none of these jobs would have been available to me today as a young man. Not only am I a better man for those experiences, I'm a better citizen and father.

Jim Beers

Eagan, Minn.

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