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QuickPoint! – Oregon Can Support Workers by Reducing Regulations

By Rachel Dawson

Businesses across Oregon are laying off employees and shuttering their doors, triggered by the COVID-19 outbreak and Kate Brown’s [executive order](#) requiring social distancing and closing specified businesses. Unemployment claims [jumped by around 3,200% in Oregon last week](#) and unemployment could reach 20% in the coming months.

Due to the outbreak and increased statewide demand, the state is relaxing requirements for some occupations. For example, the state will be expediting the licensing process for daycare providers and will “[waive, suspend or amend existing administrative rules pertaining to child care while allowing for emergency child care to be established.](#)”

Easing the burden and costs of licensing for daycare workers is a good first step, but the state can go farther to help more Oregonians access jobs they otherwise would be locked out of due to costly fees and lengthy processes. Oregon has the [8th most burdensome licensing laws in the nation](#) and licenses 69 of 102 lower-income occupations identified by the Institute for Justice.

For instance, residents who are **already certified** as an EMT in another state must apply, pass a background check, and pay a fee to be granted a license in Oregon. Officials can reduce or waive these requirements to improve access to the health care industry, which may be especially important now if others fall ill while caring for sick Oregonians.

Oregon can support workers and help more people attain employment by cutting the red tape now and committing to reduced occupational regulations in the future.

Rachel Dawson is a Policy Analyst at Cascade Policy Institute, Oregon’s free-market public policy research organization.

