

NEWS RELEASE

GOVERNOR
Northrup
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FOR RELEASE: IMMEDIATE
October 7, 1982

STATE LICENSING OF 350 OCCUPATIONS RAISES COSTS, DESTROYS JOBS

"The state's attempt to require licenses for more than 350 occupations destroys jobs and restricts competition, raising the cost to consumers and simultaneously fails to promote competence," according to John Northrup, Libertarian candidate for Governor.

"It's hard to see how the public benefits from the licensing of wrestling match ticket-takers, fertilizer distributors, fur breeders, or boxing announcers," said Northrup, noting some of the lesser known jobs requiring state licensing or certification.

Northrup, a licensed Certified Public Accountant himself and a cum laude graduate from Princeton, quoted from a recent study of licensure by the New York State Bar Association,

"It is far from clear that (licensing laws) actually bar the unqualified (from practicing) and it is even less clear that they bar only the unqualified. Nor do they offer much protection against intentional and negligent misconduct on the part of those already licensed, arguably a much greater and more immediate evil than practice by the inexpert."

"The restriction of occupational entry often has nothing to do with qualifications anyway," says Northrup. "For example, in New York City, the number of taxicabs is restricted creating a city-enforced monopoly. As a result, it costs more than \$60,000 for the right to own a cab. Not only does this raise the cost of taking a taxi to consumers, but it prevents less affluent individuals who want

to work from operating their own businesses and becoming productive members of society.

"The direct cost of enforcing these licensing laws is enormous, but the indirect costs of artificially high prices and destruction of job opportunities, as well as the incentive to work is even greater. As Governor, I will urge repeal of these barriers to free trade between individuals," said Northrup.

Northrup chided his opponents, Lehrman and Cuomo, for failing to address this issue, or for that matter, their failure to present any specific proposals on taxes, crime and jobs, the three major issues facing state voters this year.