

**Unemployment Testimony
Senate Commerce Committee**

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I have been a barber for 17 years and owner my own shop for 15. I am a sole income provider for my household and have not been able to make a living or get unemployment since the middle of March. This shut down was discriminatory, bias and not very well thought out.

Hi, my name is Luke Aichele. I live in McPherson, Kansas. I own Luke's Barber Shop and have been in business for 15 years. I am married and have two children. My daughter Gentry is 11 years old and my son Ace is 9 yrs old. My wife of 15 years, Chelsea, is a homemaker that also homeschools our children. I have three great barbers that work at Luke's Barber Shop. Landon Wall (Marine veteran) has a 10 year old daughter, Gabriel Ibarra has a ~~76~~ yr old son and Shelly Black has two grown sons. ONE ACTIVELY EMPLOYED
ONE VETERAN

I made the decision to be a barber when I was 14 and enrolled in barber school when I was 18 and I have never looked back. I decided I wanted to be a barber because of the interaction with people and the opportunity to affect people's lives on a daily basis. I've been a barber more than half my life. Myself, along with my fellow barbers and cosmetologist have worked very hard to build a business and chase the dream of being self employed, and now it's been swept from under our feet. We were ordered to shut down without notice and complied with all orders put in place. During this time I was still making house payments, car payments and all the normal everyday bills that Americans work hard to keep current. I did my due diligence of suspending all booth rent being collected at the shop from the other barbers since they were also not making an income.

After almost 2 months of no income and no assistance from that exact government that ordered us to shut down, I made the tough decision to reopen my barbershop as I could no longer survive without an income. I have been diligent about saving money and living within my means and to have my families' savings be greatly depleted because of reckless political decisions by people that haven't felt any of the financial repercussions of this, is unacceptable. The majority of people that are in favor of this shutdown are the very people that aren't affected by this, ^{↑H 35c} collecting a paycheck as usual or receiving unemployment.

When the idea of essential and non essential employment was introduced, it immediately created a division amongst people rather than influencing our citizens to come together, which is what we need more than anything during times like this. By the government taking this action, it has shown great bias and discrimination. When anyone has the responsibility to make a living to support themselves or their family, there is a clear argument that they should be deemed essential. Governor Kelly is picking winners and losers. Unfortunately, she has deemed me and my family non essential and on the losing end. The government has taken the opportunity from me to earn an income and put self employed Americans in a position to shut down and at

the same time not be able to get unemployment. This is in direct violation of the Constitution and the 5th Amendment rights. When we are willing to flirt with the idea of treading on the exact ideas and fundamentals that created this great country, then we are traveling down a very dangerous and scary road. This country was built on its citizens raising questions of right and wrong, complete freedom and being represented by the government we put in place. Now Americans, including myself, are so out of touch with things going on, that the idea of raising questions is made to feel like we are doing something wrong.

If there is one thing I want you to take from this today, it is that everyone is essential!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "M. J. White", written in a cursive style.