

**Testimony of Keith R. Brothers in Opposition to HB no. 6445: “An Act
Expanding Economic Opportunity in Occupations Licensed by the
Department of Consumer Protection”.**
February 23, 2021.

Co-Chairs D’Agostino and Maroney, Ranking Members Witkos and Rutigliano, and Honorable Members of the General Law Committee:

For the record, I am Keith Brothers, President of the New London-Norwich Building Trades, Business Manager of the CT Labor District Council and the Executive Secretary of the CT State Building Trades and I strongly **oppose** House Bill 6445.

This bill would have the effect of crushing economic opportunity for competent highly trained licensed skilled building trades workers. There is no need to rush untrained or undertrained workers into a Connecticut job market that already cannot provide sufficient skilled jobs in infrastructure development, highway or major construction.

All Building Trades seek only the most qualified workers who pass through years of learning, apprenticeship and accomplishment which assures the citizens of Connecticut that the buildings they enter, the structures they drive on and components of those buildings are structures constructed with the safety of workers and the public foremost in their mind.

This bill will encourage contractors who often have no intention of providing living wages or benefits to flood the State with undertrained out-of-state workers to do rapid, untrained and unsafe work that places both workers and moreover the general public at great risk!

Thank you for your attention to my remarks!

Keith R. Brothers,

Business Manager/Secretary-Treasurer – CT Laborers District Council

Executive Secretary, CT State Building Trades

President – New London/Norwich Building Trades Council