

Testimony of the International Union of Elevator Constructors Local 91
General Law Committee
Connecticut General Assembly
Bill No. 6445 An Act Expanding Economic Opportunity in Occupations
Licensed by the Department of Consumer Protection
February 23, 2021

Chairman Rep. D’Agostino and Chairman Sen Maroney, Ranking Members and Honorable Members of the General Law Committee:

My name is John DeRosa, of Tolland Connecticut. I represent the International Union of Elevator Constructors Local 91. I am submitting this testimony in **Strong Opposition** to raised House Bill 6445

As a R2 Elevator Journeyperson, I have been licensed in Connecticut for more than thirty-five years, and currently serve as the Chairman of the Elevator Installation, Repair, and Maintenance Work Examination Board for the State of Connecticut.

As a member of the “Elevator Board” I have strongly supported the efforts of the State of Connecticut to promote the protection of the health, safety, and welfare of the general public through current licensing laws and regulations. As elevator Constructors, our job is highly skilled and specialized, and we go through extensive on-the-job training with in-classroom related Instruction.

Bill 6445 allows a person who holds a valid license, permit, certification or registration in another state to obtain a Connecticut license without approval from the Elevator Installation, Repair, and Maintenance Work Examination Board, **which would put the safety of the general public and workers of the state of Connecticut at risk.** The definition and scope of elevator work may not be the same in every state and building codes used to install, repair and maintain equipment may also not be the same in every state. This would mean that a person working on equipment that the general public rides could be doing so without the proper on-the-job training. Additionally, related instruction in other states may not meet Connecticut’s standards, and as a result, such persons may not be competent to perform all services in that licensed trade in Connecticut. This would jeopardize the safety of the general public and workers in the state of Connecticut.

In September 2013, The Center for Construction Research and Training published a study titled Deaths and Injuries Involving Elevators and Escalators which states that incidents involving elevators and escalators each year kill 31 people and seriously injure 17,000 people in the United States, the report also states that between the years of 1997 and 2010 91 deaths of non-work-related elevator passengers were reported. These deaths occurred in 23 states and the District of Columbia. **NONE OF THESE DEATHS OCCURRED IN CONNECTICUT.**

Currently, if an applicant for a license has completed a Connecticut approved apprenticeship program, DCP will automatically grant the application to sit for a licensing exam. If an applicant has not completed a Connecticut approved apprenticeship program, Then the appropriate board or the Commissioner of Consumer Protection determines if the applicant has requisite skill to perform the work in the trade. The current process is needed to protect the safety of the general public and the workers in the State of Connecticut.

With regard to having the state recognize military experience for occupational license. In 2014, the AFL-CIO Licensed Trades, the Department of Labor the Veterans Affairs Committee Chairs and advocates from the Yale Law School, all met together to work on language which resulted in Public Act 14-131. The Public Act created a balance between pathways for veterans while maintaining high standards of safety for the general public and veterans.

If 6445 passes, the safety of the general public and workers in the state of Connecticut would be at risk. I urge this committee to reject 6445.

Respectfully submitted,

John DeRosa

Business Agent, International Union of Elevator Constructors, Local 91