

**Greater Hartford-New Britain  
Building & Construction  
Trades Council**

Affiliated with the



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General Law Committee  
Public Hearing

February 23, 2021

**Re: HB 6445 - An Act Expanding Economic Opportunity in Occupations Licensed by the Department of Consumer Protection**

Chairman D'Agostino, Chairman Maroney, Ranking Member Witkos, Ranking Member Rutigliano and members of the General Law Committee,

The CT State Building Trades is submitting testimony in **strong opposition to HB 6445**, "*An Act Expanding Economic Opportunity in Occupations Licensed by the Department of Consumer Protection.*" We believe this bill will have unintended consequences resulting in workplace injuries and a diluting of both safety and apprenticeship standards.

Between January 1, 2018 through January 1, 2021, 1,188 out-of-state applicants applied to sit for a construction-related occupational licensing exam, including the military applications through DOL. Of that number, only 11 were fully denied based on incomplete information or other reasons. I would have to say by looking at these numbers that opportunities are being provided to people that are looking to work in Connecticut in the licensed trades.

It is in the public's best interest for a candidate looking to reciprocate an occupational license to show equivalency before taking an open book exam. Every jurisdiction issuing a license has different codes, procedures and hands-on experience when issuing a license. Licensing Boards are made up of professionals in their prospective fields. Having the Board evaluate the candidate's experience before taking a test gives the public a level of assurance. And as you can see by the numbers stated earlier it certainly is not a barrier.

After speaking with the Governor's policy makers, the Building Trades leaders were informed that HB 6445 was going to include professional licenses. As you can see this is not the case. The Building Trades Locals are struggling to provide work opportunities for their members during the pandemic. Many Locals are sending members out of state to work. Some of these highly trained middle-class blue-collar workers will not be coming back to Connecticut. Other states in the region have figured out that austerity doesn't help working people during a pandemic.

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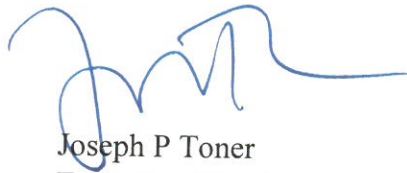
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It's unfortunate that the administration is waging class warfare by attacking Connecticut residents that hold occupational licenses. Once again, working families are being marginalized by elitist.

Respectfully Submitted,



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