



CT Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 777 J.A.T.C.  
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General Law Committee  
Public Hearing

February 23, 2021

**Re: HB 6455 - 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

My name is Vinnie Valente and I am the Training Coordinator for UA Local 777 Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee. I am a member of the CT Plumbing and Piping Licensing Board at the CT Department of Consumer Protection and have had the privilege of serving as Program Manager of the State of CT, DOL Office of Apprenticeship Training. Starting in the building construction trades, I progressed from Apprentice to Master Plumber Contractor, Master Heating and Cooling Contractor and hold a great many other credentials including advanced academic degrees in vocational training and labor studies. My primary training was conducted under the auspices of best training system in the nation, that of the State of CT DOL Registered Apprenticeship program. The continued privilege of holding these credentials belongs to the State of CT, Department of Consumer Protection in partnership with other state agencies.

I am submitting strong opposition to **strong opposition to HB 6455**, "*An Act Expanding Economic Opportunity in Occupations Licensed by the Department of Consumer Protection.*"

To put it simply, **Reciprocity is not Equivalency and can not prove Competency.**

While building construction standards and codes have many common standards, the differences from region to region and even state to state in the same region are more than subtle. The comparisons can only be made where the standards are equivalent and as rigorous as Connecticut's and those places are few. Look only to the recent events where freeze ups in our southern states have shown clearly how being unprepared, even for a once in 100-year weather event, causes billions of dollars of infrastructure damage, creates a lack of basic human necessities like potable water and leads to the tragic loss of lives. Much of what is failing today was built to accepted standards in the area.

Everyone that sits for a license of any sort in the State of CT should have the same experience and training as the tens of thousands of CT license holders have. Simple and loose standards of reciprocity as proposed in HB 6455 do not require this. It is understood that the intention of the bill is to help, but honestly it is misguided and would cause the worst kinds of harm to our state.

Submitted to the General Law Committee with the deepest respect,

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