

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

I am writing testimony today in **strong opposition** to H.B. 6445 for construction trades. I am a licensed Electrician in the State of Connecticut and I completed a Connecticut approved registered apprenticeship program. It is my understanding, the purpose of this bill is to encourage job seekers to re-locate to Connecticut, by relaxing the current process of obtaining an occupational license. I believe this will be detrimental to Connecticut's construction industry and ultimately the Connecticut consumer.

I fear this bill will displace Connecticut's construction workers when out of state workers' will be granted to sit for a licensed test when, "The person has practiced under such license, permit, certification or registration for not less than one year". The construction industry is one of the most dangerous and lowering our standards is the wrong move for Connecticut. The construction industry also has the potential to be the best temporary job an individual will ever have; because by nature, we work ourselves out of a job. I feel this bill will weaken opportunities for Connecticut's existing construction workforce.

Building codes are different all around the country and we have a process already in place to screen an applicant's education prior to obtaining a Connecticut construction license. The Department of Consumer Protection examines to see if an applicant has completed a state approved apprenticeship program. 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 state approved apprenticeship program, then pursuant to C.G.S. Sec. 20-333, "A recommendation for review issued pursuant to section 31-22u shall be sufficient to demonstrate that an applicant possesses such requisite skill and can comply with all other requirements of this chapter and the regulations adopted under this chapter." This is an important step in maintaining Connecticut's skilled construction workforce and not allowing just anyone from sitting for an exam and performing work in Connecticut, based solely on credentials.

H.B. 6445 feels like an attack on Connecticut's construction apprenticeships, Connecticut's construction licensing, and Connecticut's construction safety standards. I ask you to join myself and the rest of the building trades representatives who have given testimony today and oppose H.B. 6445 as it pertains to the construction industry.

Thank you for your time and consideration in addressing this matter.

Respectfully,



Jerome White
Local Union 488, IBEW