

**VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING THURSDAY
FEBRUARY 18, 2021**

Chairman Cabrera, Chairman Boyd, Ranking Member Cicarella, Ranking Member Vail and members of this committee, my name is Cameron Champlin and I represent Plumbers and Pipefitters Local Union 777. Local 777 is comprised of approximately 3500 working men and women that reside in the state of Connecticut. I am also a member of the Heating and Cooling Licensing Board.

We are very strongly opposing House bill 5732 for various reasons. The requirements for occupational licensing are very different from Connecticut's in many states. For instance we have to take into account the difference in climate for the installation of heating and cooling. Applicants from Florida for instance, because of the warm climate, would not have gained the same knowledge as we do here. Codes are different in many states and require different installations for heating, cooling and plumbing. When anyone applies for occupational licensing in Connecticut we must ensure that the person is qualified for the safety of our residents. Therefore experience from another area must meet the same criteria as we have here. Any applicable knowledge a person has acquired from another jurisdiction should be, and is, certainly considered when applying for one of the state occupational licenses. For these reasons, especially the safety of our citizens, we ask that you vote against this bill moving forward.

We do strongly support SB-413 which exempts veterans from all licensing fees. Although P.A. 14-131 does exempt veterans from licensing fees which are included in statutes, it only references waiver of application fee and the license fee for issuance of the license. This bill will clarify the intent of P.A. 14-131 to also waive any future renewal fees for a veteran's license.

We do agree with the intent of HB-6316 and SB-414 but since these requirements are already in statutes we believe these bills are not necessary. Public Act 14-131 includes all of the intentions of those bills.

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony and allowing me to testify on these very important issues. If there is anymore information required from me please contact me at camc@att.net or my cell (860) 287-0020.

Respectfully submitted by Cameron Champlin