

Good afternoon Chairperson Young, Vicechair DeVitis, Ranking Member

Lepore-Hagan, and members of the Committee on HB 164.

My name is Jacob Krulcik and I am one of the hundreds of small contracting business owners in Ohio. We work with both commercial and residential clients and enjoy helping fellow small businesses by providing reasonable prices and high quality roofing.

Most recently, we worked on the roof of a local bakery. Because our employees are 1099 contractors, we are able to keep our costs very low, saving our customers money. When the big companies were quoting the work, they estimated the cost would be about 40k, we were able to offer the same work for 12k.

I am here today to express my opposition for HB 164 because it will make it much harder for small roofing contractors in Ohio to remain competitive and keep our employees working. It will also increase prices for businesses looking for roofing.

It has yet to be made clear how expensive this training is going to cost small businesses like mine; a part of us being able to stay competitive with major corporations is our lack of overhead driving our labor prices up. If we have to pay for long hours of coursework and license fees for all of our employees, we will lose our ability to compete with large businesses who can front the cost. These large companies had the luxury of growing in an environment without licensing – please let businesses like mine do the same.

Licensing isn't needed to assure we provide good service. With the ability to show our online reviews to clients, we're able to prove our creditability without showing additional training, licenses, and certifications.

By making us serving our clients without these licenses a misdemeanor and punishable by law, you'll be punishing small business owners for simply doing what they have been doing for years! it is going to be very disadvantageous to the thousands of Ohioans employed by small business owners, such as myself.

Thank you for your time today. Please, stand with me, stand up for small businesses, and don't support House Bill 164.