



**Ohio House of Representatives Commerce and Labor Committee  
Chairman Ron Young  
June 26, 2018  
Bryan C. Williams  
Director of Government Affairs  
Associated Builders and Contractors of Ohio**

## **HB 236 – Opponent Testimony**

ABC of Ohio opposes HB 236, in short, because it is an expensive, anti-competitive solution in search of a public safety need. Year in and year out industry participants support HB 236 in the name of public safety – yet they cannot demonstrate a public safety issue going back decades.

What's more, commercial elevators are inspected before being placed into service and twice a year thereafter. That's why commercial elevators have such a stellar safety record in Ohio.

HB 236 is a thinly veiled effort to limit the number of merit shop elevator contractors in Ohio. If passed, this bill would increase the cost of commercial elevator service and provide no discernable public safety benefit. The Ohio House should decline to pass this legislation as it has many times in the past because it increases costs and regulatory burdens with no demonstrable public safety benefit.

The introduced version of HB 236 clearly demonstrates the proponents' intended purpose – *gain competitive advantage by reducing competition through restricted training and testing opportunities.*

While the substitute version of the bill removed residential elevator service from the bill and slightly expanded applicable training courses, it remains restrictive and anti-competitive.

In the presence of an outstanding public safety record, ABC of Ohio urges the committee to resist the needless regulatory burdens offered by HB 236 and keep Ohio competitive.

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Ohio's three ABC chapters have nearly 1,000 commercial general contractors, sub-contractors and affiliated businesses which promote the merit shop philosophy free market public policies. ABC member contractors are completely dedicated to providing the highest quality construction product for the most competitive price while maintaining the highest level of workplace safety. Additionally, we work every day to recruit, train and employ the construction workforce of tomorrow.