

House Economic Development,
Commerce and Labor Committee

Re: Proposed HB 236

Dear Mr. Young,

I'm writing your committee to express our concerns with HB 236. As a large segment of our business we install and service stair lift and vertical platform lift products for both residential and commercial customers. We install our products in accordance with manufacture guidelines and ASME 18.1 standards. For our commercial application installations they are permitted and inspected by the State of Ohio Elevator Section. From my experience our industry has an excellent safety history.

As a reputable business operator we appreciate the opportunity to work with the State of Ohio to help keep our industry standards high. However, considering the major differences between stair lift and vertical platform lift products as defined in ASME 18.1 and commercial elevator equipment the proposed requirements of an elevator mechanic license will be restrictive and create a financial hardship for both our business and the customers we serve. The elevator mechanic licensing requirements will not only drive the cost up of installing limited use accessibility products for our larger corporate customer, but more so for the churches and small businesses we deal with on a daily basis who are simply trying to provide greater access for their elderly and handicapped church members and business patrons.

In addition, the proposed licensing requirements will also have a negative financial impact on our residential customers as well. The additional licensing requirements will end up driving our employee labor costs higher which in turn will drive up both commercial and residential prices. In many situations the elderly and handicapped who need our accessibility products the most are the people who can afford the least.

In conclusion, like any industry there is always room for improvement. However, the burdenson requirement of an elevator mechanic license for the installation of stair lift and vertical platform lift products will not significantly improve the safety record of an industry that already has a excellent safety history. As proposed, the requirement will have a negative impact on our overall business, our employees who do a great job and most of all our residential, church, small business and commercial customers who will end up paying significantly more for the accessibility products they need to better serve the elderly and handicapped population.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Donald Wilcox, General Manager
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