



Gable Elevator

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Testimony of Phillip M. Isaac
Vice President of Gable Elevator, Twinsburg OH
Proponent of HB 289
House Commerce & Labor Committee

Chairwoman Manning, Vice Chairman Dean, Ranking Member Lepore-Hagan and members of the House Commerce & Labor Committee, thank you for this opportunity to testify as a proponent of HB 289 today.

My name is Phil Isaac, and I am the Vice President of Gable Elevator in Twinsburg, Ohio. Gable Elevator was founded in 1991 as a residential installer. Our company installs elevators and chair lifts. By 1997 we were installing LU/LAs and passenger elevators in commercial buildings.

House Bill 289 would move our industry in the right direction by requiring future mechanics to either get a CET certification or to go through the building trade and get NEIEP training. The bill would also require continuing education which is needed in Ohio.

In my company we use both CET and NEIEP trained technicians, and I am a CET Supervisor which means that I can train an apprentice. Of my 20 field employees, 16 were NEIEP trained and 4 were CET trained. In my company, we do residential and commercial work, but I would never hire anyone without NEIEP or CET training to install a residential elevator. HB 289 would require every elevator constructor in Ohio working in public buildings to be licensed.

Another provision of the bill that I think is important is the initial inspection for residential elevators as well as the transfer on the deed. In some areas of Ohio, municipalities require an initial inspection when the elevator is installed. It is common practice that realtors will also call elevator companies to do a safety test as part



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of the home inspection. I think it makes sense to do this every time a home with an elevator in it sells to a new owner. When I look at a residential elevator I can tell if it was installed by an untrained mechanic. Sometimes the gap is too big between the gate and the door, which means the company who installed the conveyance, cut corners to install the elevator and did not properly follow A17.1 elevator codes. Sometimes the gap is big enough for a child to fit in and that can lead to tragedy—unfortunately it happens.

In my company, we take our responsibility to public safety very seriously. Currently, my employees and I already do a lot of the things that are required in this life safety legislation. Our goal as a company is to make sure that the public is safe and that our employees are safe as well. The best way that we have been able to figure out how to do that is to use the best and most highly trained and professional people. This bill would help make sure that our future employees operate at the same high level that they do today.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important safety issue, and for giving this bill your consideration. I am happy to answer questions.

Phillip M. Isaac CET-S / QEI

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