



Ohio House of Representatives Commerce and Labor Committee
Chairman Gayle L. Manning
November 20, 2019
Bryan C. Williams, Director of Government Affairs
Associated Builders and Contractors of Ohio

HB 289 – Opponent Testimony

ABC of Ohio opposes HB 289, 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 289 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 289 is a thinly veiled effort to limit the number of 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.

I challenge to the proponents of the bill to demonstrate the need for additional regulation based on public safety lapses in the past ten years. In the presence of an outstanding public safety record, ABC of Ohio urges the committee to resist the needless regulatory burdens offered by HB 289 and keep Ohio competitive.

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.