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Sponsor Testimony
State Senator Joseph Uecker & State Senator Kenny Yuko
Senate Bill 308
Senate Transportation, Commerce and Workforce Committee
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Thank you Chairman LaRose, Ranking Member Schiavoni, and members of the Transportation, Commerce and Workforce Committee for the opportunity to speak on behalf of Senate Bill 308.

Senate Bill 308 is a companion to House Bill 236 which is currently before the House. This legislation seeks to modernize Ohio's elevator laws.

Taking elevators is a regular occurrence in our day to day lives and malfunctions can cause serious injuries to riders. S.B. 308 seeks to codify industry standards and set licensure qualifications to help ensure the safety of both elevator riders and workers.

S.B. 308 seeks to update several areas of current elevator law; starting with the definition of elevator. This bill expands the definition of "elevator" under R.C. 4105.01 by removing the requirement that moving walks must be of the endless belt type and excludes them from this law. It also covers the design, construction and repair of automatic guided transit vehicles on guideways with an exclusive right-of-way (automated people movers).

The Model Elevator Law proposes creating an Elevator Safety Review Board. This board would be authorized to set forth regulations that implement the American Society of Mechanical Engineers safety codes, consult with engineering authorities and organizations, grant exceptions and variances from the rules if the situation does not jeopardize public safety and welfare, investigate an alleged violation of the Model Elevator Law, administer written examination for elevator mechanics, and establish fee schedules for licenses, permits, certificates and inspections.

S.B. 308 also implements a licensure requirement so that only qualified elevator mechanics and elevator contractors are permitted to install, or service elevators or escalators. A licensed elevator mechanic must work under the direct supervision of a licensed contractor. An elevator inspector will be licensed upon meeting the current Standards for the Qualifications of Elevator Inspectors. The renewal of the licenses will be conditional upon completing continuing education of at least eight hours of instructions every year.

This legislation also seeks to establish an insurance requirement for elevator contractors and inspectors not employed by the state of Ohio with general liability coverage of at least \$1,000,000 for injury or death and at least \$500,000 for property damage.

S.B. 308 imposes the responsibility on mechanics and contractors to comply with State Fire Prevention and Building code; increases the maximum fine from \$1,000 to \$1,500, and adds imprisonment as a form of penalty. It does not relieve the liability of anyone operating, installing or repairing any elevator for any damages caused by the elevators defect.

Our goal is to ensure the safety for the public and for those who work and install elevators. The best way for us to ensure a high level of safety is to ensure that all elevators are installed and maintained by licensed professionals.

Again, thank you Chairman LaRose and committee members for allowing us to testify. Senator Uecker and I are available to take any questions.