



Testimony of Jeanne Hoffman
In Opposition to R.C. 3723.081/HB 166
Executive Director, The Ohio Association of Radon Professionals
Before the Finance Subcommittee on Health and Medicaid
May 16, 2019

Thank you Chairman Hackett, Vice Chairman Huffman, Ranking Minority Member Thomas and distinguished members of the committee for allowing me to speak today.

My name is Jeanne Hoffman and I serve as the Executive Director for the Ohio Association of Radon Professionals (OARP).

OARP, founded in 1997 is a chapter of the American Association of Radon Scientists and Technologists (AARST). Our members are dedicated to excellence in the radon industry through professional education, expansion of industry markets, knowledge sharing, and providing the public with a forum to address ethical standards within the local radon industry.

One very important part of our mission is to raise awareness of radon-gas related issues and promote and support regulatory efforts to protect the public from radon gas exposure.

To that end, I am testifying in opposition to the addition of R.C. 3723.081 which would prohibit the Director of the Ohio Department of Health from requiring a licensed radon mitigation specialist to be physically present for supervision purposes during the installation of a radon mitigation system. The key word being during.

This language was not in the Executive budget and was subsequently inserted in the House version unveiled May 2. Additionally, the Ohio Association of Radon Professionals was never contacted or given an opportunity to provide professional input prior to the language being added.

This requirement, ORC 3723.05 which has been in the statute since 1990, states that (B) No licensed radon mitigation contractor shall (1) Perform radon mitigation without the direct on-site supervision of a licensed radon mitigation specialist. Since 1992 the Ohio Administrative Rule has defined (69) "Supervision" to mean oversight, review, and approval of work at a site prior to, during, and upon completion of radon mitigation.

To fully understand the change the bill seeks, it is important to understand a few facts about radon.

Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas that can cause lung cancer. It is recognized as a known carcinogen. Radon gas is inert, colorless and odorless, and most of people's radon exposure occurs inside homes, schools and workplaces.

Health authorities such as the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the Surgeon General, the American Lung Association, the American Medical Association and others agree that we know enough now about radon to recommend radon testing and to encourage public action when levels are above 4 pCi/L.

Nationally, indoor radon gas is the #1 cause of lung cancer in non-smokers and the #2 cause overall as stated by the Surgeon General, U.S. EPA and the World Health Organization (WHO). Breathing air with concentrated radon levels over a prolonged time is a significant health risk. DNA in the lungs starts to become damaged between 2.7 - 5pCi/L. - data which is also supported by the James Comprehensive Cancer Center at The Ohio State University and is outlined in their Patient Flyer provided with today's testimony.

In Ohio you are 17% more likely to get lung cancer than the U.S. average. Furthermore, elevated levels of indoor radon gas are common in all 88 counties, with more than half of those counties having average indoor radon screening levels greater than 4 pCi/L and the remaining counties having average indoor radon screening levels ranging from 2 to 4 pCi/L. You can review radon levels by county on the US EPA map provided with this testimony. (source U.S. <https://www.epa.gov/radon/find-information-about-local-radon-zones-and-state-contact-information#radonmap>).

To that end, there are several reasons we strongly oppose this addition to the budget bill:

1. Radon is a serious health risk in Ohio and is identified in the Ohio Revised Code as a hazardous material, alongside lead-based paint, asbestos, and urea-formaldehyde foam insulation (ORC 5302.30 (D) (1).)
2. Having a trained and licensed radon mitigation professional onsite helps to ensure the proper installation of a radon mitigation system. This applies to all structures in Ohio including homes, businesses and schools.
3. Having a licensed radon professional onsite improves efficiency, eliminating the need for return visits back to the home, business, school or other facility. During the installation of a radon system, obstacles are discovered which are unknown when visual and/or phone estimates are completed. Mitigation system installers make decisions that affect the efficiency of the operation and effectiveness of the radon system. Therefore, being a licensed mitigation specialist and remaining on site is crucial so that correct decisions are made to protect the occupant from the impact of radon gas and the potential for lung cancer.
4. Similar industries have onsite licensing requirements in place, such as the Ohio Home Inspectors Association. Amended Senate Bill 255, which was passed by the 132nd General Assembly and signed into law by Governor Kasich, requires licensed professionals on the job. This new law establishes a home inspector licensure system in Ohio, establishes a regulatory board to adopt standards of practice, requires home inspectors to earn 80 hours of pre-licensure education, and

establishes a three-year license, with a requirement for 14 hours of continuing education annually.

5. Current training and licensing of mitigation professionals is not cost-prohibitive. For example, one well-known and respected training provider in the industry, Spruce Radon Training offers training for a radon mitigator for \$214.00 plus \$140 for 3rd party testing following the course. The Ohio Department of Health fee for a 2-year migration specialist license is \$600. Therefore, the total cost to train and to license a radon mitigation professional for 2 years is \$954. That equals approximately \$40 per month.

If the Chair and the members of the Committee have not yet had the opportunity, I strongly urge you to review the written testimony submitted by Annie Cacciato, a friend of radon awareness in Ohio and a friend to the Radon Industry. A resident of Licking County, Annie is a non-smoker, Stage-4 lung cancer patient who has made radon awareness, radon testing in schools and her very survival her mission. While the OARP can provide the science and professional expertise as to why this issue is so important, Annie can share her personal story of how radon is impacting her family and her life as an Ohio citizen.

Rescinding the requirement to have a licensed radon mitigation specialist onsite for supervision throughout the installation process is a huge step backwards in public health. Eliminating this requirement endangers the integrity of the radon industry, and more importantly, puts the health and safety of Ohio citizens at risk.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this statement. We welcome any questions.