

## SB 156 Proponent Testimony

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The Construction Employers Association

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Chairman Eklund, Vice-Chairman Manning and Ranking Member Thomas:

On behalf of the Construction Employers Association (CEA), I would like to thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on SB 156. CEA is a non profit trade association with over 175 members employing approximately 8,000 skilled trades and construction management personnel primarily in Northeast Ohio. Our members range from large general contractors to smaller subcontractors. We are committed to construction safety by offering our members numerous best in class programs as well as training to increase safety at their job sites.

Construction work can be dangerous, stressful and physically demanding. Each person working on a construction site depends on the skill level, competence and fitness for duty of their co-workers. They have to rely on one another to safely do their jobs in order to protect themselves and their fellow workers from accidents.

SB 156 prohibits defrauding a drug or urine screening test and bans the sale and use of fake urine for that screening. Synthetic urine is easily accessible. An internet search shows the number of brands and locations where you can purchase various products to help pass drug tests. Those who choose to use these products are not only putting their lives at risk but the lives of their co-workers. Ohio employers should not have to worry about the validity of drug test results because someone may have used synthetic urine to pass a drug test. Construction workers should not have to work beside people who have so easily avoided legitimate drug tests.

CEA would like to thank Senator Gavarone for introducing this important piece of legislation. SB156 is a common sense approach to help increase workplace safety. Ohio should join the other 18 states that have enacted laws similar to this bill to address this growing problem. We urge the Committee to favorably pass SB 156.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify, and I will be happy to answer any questions the committee may have.