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**Sponsor Testimony**

**State Senator Joe Uecker & State Senator Kenny Yuko**

**Senate Bill 127**

**Senate Transportation, Commerce and Workforce Committee**

**May 8, 2019**

Thank you Chairman McColley, Ranking Member Antonio, and the members of the Transportation, Commerce and Workforce Committee for the opportunity to speak on behalf of Senate Bill 127.

Senate Bill 127 seeks to modernize Ohio’s elevator laws. Taking elevators is a regular occurrence in our lives. We go about our days not considering that malfunctions can cause serious injuries to riders. SB 127 seeks to codify industry standards and set licensure qualifications to help ensure the safety of both elevator riders and workers.

SB 127 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.

SB 127 places 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.

Finally SB 127 creates the Elevator Safety Review Board. This board is authorized to create regulations that implement the American Society of Mechanical Engineers safety codes, consult with engineering authorities, 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.

Our goal is to ensure the safety of the public and of those who install elevators. The best way to do this is to ensure that all elevators are installed and maintained by licensed professionals.

Again, thank you for allowing us to testify. We are available to take any questions.