



Date: February 8, 2022

To: Ohio House of Representatives Commerce and Labor Committee

From: Beth Lear, Vice President of Government Affairs, Associated Builders and Contractors of Ohio

Re: House Bill 181 Proponent Testimony

Chair Stein, Vice Chair Johnson, Ranking Member Lepore-Hagan and Representatives of the Committee, ABC of Ohio members support House Bill 181, which would “Grant an occupational license to those completing apprenticeship.”

This legislation was a great idea when it was first introduced. Today, post-COVID and with the labor shortage, passage of this bill will not only benefit Ohio’s apprentices, it will help restore Ohio’s economy and keep our projects on track.

HB 181 costs government nothing, and will save employees and employers time and money. It wisely uses registered apprenticeship programs – already state and federally recognized – as the basis for occupational licensing, replacing additional and costly hoops for state-mandated training that is usually better performed by existing apprenticeship programs in the private sector.

Associated Builders and Contractors have offered training for prospective tradesmen and women since 1960, receiving our first federal certification just two years later in 1962. For more than half a century ABC members have trained their own masons, electricians, plumbers, HVAC technicians and all other construction positions to work, as often as possible, in year-round positions.

Merit and union shop apprenticeship programs have been proven safe and effective. With the passage of HB 181, the recognition of our quality instruction will help increase the number of skilled construction workers, and other industry apprentices, at a time when they are desperately needed.

On behalf of the hundreds of ABC members across Ohio and the thousands of our tradesmen and women who will benefit, and on behalf of the economy that will profit from the elimination of duplicative and overly burdensome licensing requirements, I encourage you to pass House Bill 181.

Thank you for your time.