



HOUSE COMMERCE AND LABOR COMMITTEE

MARCH 1, 2022

OPPOSITION TESTIMONY (WRITTEN ONLY) ON H.B. 181

Chair Stein, Vice Chair Johnson, Ranking Member Lepore-Hagan, and Representatives on the House Commerce and Labor Committee:

Our organizations represent commercial construction contractors, subcontractors and specialty trades, and workers. Our members build schools, roads, bridges, office and medical complexes, pipelines, industrial and manufacturing facilities, wastewater treatment plants, mechanical and electrical systems, and a host of other vertical and horizontal structures. **We strongly support the commercial construction industry’s educational and professional programs and invest heavily in them.**

OUR ORGANIZATIONS STRONGLY OPPOSE H.B. 181 FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:

H.B. 181 weakens licensure for construction trades.

Licensing for skilled trade professionals plays an intricate role in the construction industry. For decades, the Ohio Construction Industry Licensing Board (“OCILB”) has been made up of union and non-union representatives that have professionally handled issues involving licensing and reciprocity with other states. When it comes to licensing, these industry professionals are better suited to make these determinations without the legislature overreaching into this specialized arena. This industry group strongly opposes any legislation or language that would alter or dilute the law regarding licensing construction industry related trades or professions.

H.B. 181 undermines privately funded apprenticeship programs.

Collectively, the organizations listed above invest over \$50 million per year in apprenticeship and safety training. These are 100% private dollars, made up of employer contributions and employee deductions. Ohio’s construction apprenticeship programs are amongst the most highly rated in the nation. According to ODJFS, over 80% of Ohio’s construction apprentices are in programs sponsored by the groups represented in this letter, including roughly 90% of female and minority apprentices. This industry group strongly opposes any legislation impacting construction apprenticeships.

We urge you not to favorably report H.B. 181.