

To: Ohio House of Representatives – Commerce and Labor Committee  
From: Michael Knisley  
Date: 3/1/2022  
Re: Opposition to HB 181

Chairman Dick Stein, Vice-Chair Mark Johnson, Ranking Member Lepore-Hagan:

I'm Mike Knisley, Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the Ohio State Building and Construction Trades Council. We represent nearly 100,000 building and construction tradespeople—men and women who put a hard hat on every day and go to work in every county and city across Ohio. Our members are highly-trained construction apprentices and experienced journeypeople from 137 Building Trades unions representing more than 12 building trades.

In its current form, the Ohio State Building & Construction Trades are opposed to HB 181.

Affiliates of the OSBCTC train 50% of all apprentices across all industries in the state of Ohio, and 76% of the state's construction workforce. Our unions and their contractors invest nearly \$50 million dollars per year in apprenticeship and safety training through over 70 apprenticeship training centers in Ohio. Many of these training programs have agreements in place with local community colleges to ensure that apprentices earn credits towards an associate's degree as they complete their training in our programs. Most of these programs are 4- to 5-year commitments, with apprentices working forty (40) hours or more per week, and attending classes at the training center once or twice per week in the evenings. Our classes are instructed by tradesmen and women that have vast field experience in their crafts.

The primary licensing authority in the construction arena in Ohio is the Ohio Construction Industry Licensing Board ("OCILB"). It is comprised of industry professionals as well as union and nonunion representatives. They are experts in this arena, and have done an outstanding job over the past several decades with regard to licensing skilled crafts in the construction industry including: electrical, mechanical/steamfitting, HVAC, refrigeration and hydronics. These are highly specialized areas, with tradespeople that do very dangerous work. For example, work conducted on high-pressure boilers can have significant impacts on the health and safety of every person in that building.

Any bill, including HB 181, that effectively reduces the authority of Ohio's licensing agencies for these areas of work increases the likelihood of sub-par work being conducted. As a result, the overall safety and well-being of workers and Ohio communities could be compromised.

Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions you may have, and thank you for your consideration of our position.

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