



OHIO STATE ASSOCIATION

of the
United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices
of the Plumbing and Pipefitting Industry
AFL-CIO

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

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

I'm Jeff White, President of the Ohio State Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters. Our organization represents almost 15,000 plumbers, pipefitters, and mechanical equipment service technicians working in Ohio every day.

The Ohio State Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters opposes HB 181.

Our plumber-pipefitters and signatory contractors invest millions per year in joint-labor-management apprenticeship training and safety programs. These are 4-5 year programs in which apprentices work 40 hours per week and attend evening classes at our advanced training centers. We train the largest percentage of women, people of color, and veterans enrolled in plumber-pipefitter apprenticeships in Ohio. Each year nationally, our Veterans In Piping program transitions hundreds of military veterans from active duty directly into these apprenticeships, where they earn family-sustaining wages and benefits.

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. These are highly specialized areas, with mechanics that do very dangerous work.

The Ohio Construction Industry Licensing Board (OCILB) licenses the CONTRACTORS working in the state of Ohio that could blow up, burn down or flood a commercial or industrial building. The OCILB does not license the craftsmen. Currently there are about 16,000 licensed contractors working in Ohio.

HB 181 calls for the licensing of apprentices in Ohio when there isn't even a journeyman's license in the state of Ohio. As well intentioned as this bill may seem it really makes no sense to license an apprentice and create added red tape for our small business contractors.

Any bill, including HB 181 that 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 others could be compromised. Thank you.

Jeff White, President
Ohio State Association of Plumbers & Pipefitters

