



**Representatives West and Kelly
Sponsor Testimony, House Bill 247
House Health Committee**

[Rep Kelly]

Chair Lipps, Vice Chair Holmes, Ranking Member Russo, and fellow members of the House Health Committee, thank you for giving us the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 247.

HB 247 is a commonsense bill that would eliminate unnecessary duplication by consolidating the two existing certification processes for plumbers. To be brief, passing HB 247 would mean that plumbers only need to obtain one certification to perform plumbing inspections statewide.

We should note right off the bat that the provisions of HB 247 are currently included in HB 110, the biennial budget bill. In consultation with the Ohio Building Officials Association (OBOA), who has advocated for this change for a few years now, we have moved forward with introducing the bill just in case the provisions are removed; however, we are hopeful that both chambers will continue to keep this language in HB 110.

[Rep West]

Currently, plumbing inspectors are dually certified by the Division of Industrial Compliance and the Board of Building Standards. HB 247 would create a single, consolidated certification process housed solely

under the Board of Building Standards, which already enforces plumbing certification rules.

Consolidation will increase the efficiency of the certification function and the enforcement of Ohio's plumbing rules by municipalities, local health districts, and counties. Further, plumbing inspectors would more easily be able to transfer between local governments, which will increase our local governments' ability to provide this vital public service.

As previously mentioned, HB 247 comes to us from the Ohio Building Officials Association, which has worked diligently with us on this bill and has been advocating for this change for the past few years. We especially thank Jeff Rettberg, Jim Decker, and Charles Huber from the OBOA Legislation Committee for being the driving force behind this.

Thank you, and we will be happy to answer any questions the committee may have.