

Proponent for SB 238

Good afternoon, Chair Roegner as well as fellow committee members. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill 238. My name is Larry Betlejewski, Jr and I am the owner of Beetle's Plumbing Solutions in North Royalton, Ohio. I am also currently the sitting President of the Ohio PHCC. My business has only been open for a couple years, but I have been in the plumbing industry for close to 30 yrs. I have been involved in underground water, gas and sewer repairs as well as new constructions and service and repair.

Senate Bill 238 seeks to establish a certification program for plumbing residential contractors in Ohio. This legislation is essential for improving the safety, quality, and professionalism of residential construction and renovation services in the plumbing industry.

Currently Ohio lacks consistent statewide standards for plumbing contractors in the residential setting creating challenges for both consumers and industry professionals. By implementing a certification program, SB238 addresses this gap, ensuring that contractors meet essential qualifications, follow ethical practices, and deliver high quality work

Over the years I have witnessed and repaired some scary situations in which the homeowner "knew a guy " that could work on their gas fired water heater. In one case we were part of a Carbon Monoxide leak as the proper venting was not installed and leaked Carbon Monoxide in the home. The fire Department was called then we were called to correct the issue. This was a simple repair that could have cost lives. I believe this could have been avoided all together if the person performing the task had a little bit of education on water heater installations.

Another great reason to have certification is our precious water source. Potable water is quite valuable to life. I have resolved numerous issues where an unqualified person installed a plumbing system in which the sewage line contaminated the drinking water. The client was not aware until they drew a glass of water from their kitchen tap and it had a foul odor. We were called to find the source and it was an improperly installed water back up sump pump that was siphoning sewer water into the water supply.

I could go on and on with stories over the past 30 yrs, but the short story is Ohio needs this bill to move forward. The trade work force is continually getting smaller. Certified plumbers are needed to continue to protect the health and safety of Ohio and the nation

Thank you for your time

Larry Betlejewski, Jr
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State of Ohio PHCC President