

According to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Dept., “E-Verify is currently the best means available for employers to verify electronically the employment eligibility of their newly hired employees. *E-Verify protects jobs for authorized workers and helps employers maintain a legal workforce.*” (emphasis added)

The scope of HB 246 has been narrowed from last GA’s HB 327, which passed the House 85-6, with the focus now specifically on curbing abuses in the construction industry.

From our perspective its straightforward. The Building Trades and our partner contractors invest in excess of \$65 million dollars per year on apprenticeship training – not one penny of which is taxpayer money. When labor brokers smuggle workers into the United States, pay sub-standard wages, offer no benefits, and kick them to the curb if they get hurt on the jobsite, its hurts Ohio. This abusive cycle puts Ohio-based contractors in a competitive disadvantage, compromises our ability to place apprentices on jobsites, displaces Ohio construction workers (union and non-union), and undercuts Ohio’s state and local tax base. Is this what we want to continue to perpetuate?

On behalf of our almost 100,000 working men and women in Ohio, I encourage you to pass HB 246.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to present to your committee – I’d be happy to take any questions.



Matt Szollosi
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