

Proponent Testimony for SB 54

Certification for Residential Contractors

Chair Koehler, Vice Chair Reynolds, Ranking Member Ingram, and members of the Workforce Development Committee.

My name is Steve Jerome Jr., and I am the owner and a licensed plumbing contractor at Jerome Plumbing, a family business with over four generations of service to Ohioans. I am here today to testify in support of Senate Bill 54, which seeks to Certify Residential Contractors in Ohio.

As a fourth-generation plumber, I have dedicated my career to maintaining the highest standards in our industry. Many times, I even take time from my family at night and on weekends to make sure my customers are cared for and protected. Every day, my team and I work to ensure that homes and businesses across Ohio have access to reliable and efficient plumbing systems. The well-being and security of our communities rely heavily on the competency and professionalism of those who work in this trade. I take my profession very seriously and feel it is a matter of health and public trust that anyone working inside

someone's home, which is often a family's largest asset, is professionally trained and held accountable.

SB 54 is a critical step forward in ensuring that contractors, like me, continue to uphold these standards. The bill's focus on continuing education will not only protect Ohio consumers but also ensure that contractors operate on a level playing field. These measures are essential for fostering trust and accountability in our profession.

As someone who has spent a lifetime in this trade, this bill underscores the importance of attracting and retaining skilled professionals. It is not just about protecting industry today; it's about building a solid foundation for the future. Our trade needs to remain an attractive and respected career choice for the next generation of plumbers, and SB 54 will help ensure that.

In closing, I urge the committee to support and pass SB 54 out of committee. This legislation represents a meaningful opportunity to strengthen our industry, protect consumers, and support small business owners like me. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today, and I would be happy to answer any questions.