

## **Testimony for SB 54**

Presented by Linda Hudek

I am Linda Hudek, owner and operator of LH Plumbing Services in Fairfield, Ohio. I am a state-licensed plumbing contractor with over 18 years of experience in the field. My career spans residential and commercial sectors, including new construction, remodeling, and service.

Throughout my time in the industry, I have seen the harmful consequences of work performed by individuals who lack proper training or certification. Examples include imploded water heaters that flood homes and cause structural damage, as well as gas lines installed with improper materials that result in leaks and property hazards. Most concerning are cases where fuel-burning appliances, such as water heaters and furnaces, have been installed by individuals with no formal training or oversight. These improper installations often lead to venting failures, creating dangerous carbon monoxide leaks that pose serious risks to families and communities.

SB 54 aims to address these critical issues by requiring certification for contractors offering HVAC and plumbing services. Certification is an essential step in ensuring that individuals performing this work have the

education and skills necessary to meet industry standards. It's not just about reducing property damage—it's about safeguarding lives and preventing tragedies caused by avoidable errors.

Plumbers have long been recognized as protectors of public health. Certification builds on this legacy by reinforcing trust in the profession and ensuring that those working in the trade meet consistent and verifiable standards. While commercial HVAC and plumbing are regulated by the state, it's time that residential work receives the same attention. Families and homeowners deserve the same protections as larger entities when it comes to the systems that affect their safety and well-being.

In closing, SB 54 is a vital step toward enhancing the accountability and professionalism of our industry. Certification will save lives, protect property, and elevate the trade for future generations. Thank you for your attention to this important matter. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Linda M. Hudek  
LH Plumbing Services, LLC  
7 Cinchris Drive, Suite C  
Fairfield, Ohio 45014