March 30, 2025

Hon. Kyle Koehler and Members of the Committee
Committee on Workforce Development
Ohio State Senate

RE: SB 125 – Licensure of Commercial Roofing Contractors

Dear Chair Koehler and Members of the Committee:

The National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB) is a national, century-old, not-for-profit organization supported by approximately 1,200 property and casualty insurance companies, including many who write business in Ohio. Working hand-in-hand with our member companies and Ohio state and local law enforcement, we help to detect, prevent, and deter insurance crimes, including contractor fraud.

In the aftermath of natural disasters and other catastrophic events, disreputable contractors often prey upon stressed, strained, and vulnerable consumers utilizing a number of tactics, including inflating invoices, deceiving consumers into agreeing to unnecessary repairs, perform subpar repairs, abscond with payments without completing repairs, and more.

House Bill 125 seeks to strengthen oversight over roofing contractors by establishing a roofing section within the Ohio Construction Industry Licensing Board (OCILB) and requiring roofing contractors to maintain a professional license. These requirements match professional licensing requirements already established for other trades including HVAC, electrical, and plumbing contractors. However, HB 129 will exempt roofing contractors from licensure for projects valued at less than $20,000. This threshold provides a loophole for unscrupulous contractors to continue operating without a license by purposefully limiting their project costs to remain under the licensing threshold.

Although we agree with the thrust of the bill, we respectfully request an amendment to SB 125 to lower the cost threshold for licensure to $10,000. This cost threshold, which has been proposed in other state legislatures, will help deter unscrupulous contractors purposefully seeking to evade regulatory oversight in order to continue preying on consumers.

Thank you for your consideration of our views. As always, please consider NICB a resource and partner in the fight against insurance crime. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at hhandler@nicb.org or 312-771-3974.

Sincerely,

Howard Handler

Howard Handler, MPPA
Senior Director, Strategy, Policy and Government Affairs