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Testimony of Curt Koslovsky, American Elevators, Inc.

before the

Ohio Senate General Government Budget Committee

in support of HB 107

April 5, 2022

Chair Peterson, Vice Chair Cirino, Ranking Member Craig, and members of the Senate General Government Budget Committee, my name is Curt Koslovsky, and I am one of the owners of American Elevators, Inc. based in Cincinnati, OH. We are a professional elevator company serving both commercial and residential clients through the maintenance, repair, modernization and installation of various types of vertical transportation equipment since 2001. I have over 28 years of elevator experience having worked for some of the worldwide companies before coming to American 11 years ago.

I am here today in support of HB 107, the Elevator Safety Bill.

Elevators can be a very dangerous system to work on if the mechanic is not properly educated and trained in the most recent safe, industry standard work practices. Furthermore, an improperly trained and educated person who performs improper or substandard work can result in an increased risk to the public that rides that equipment daily.



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I think it is both necessary and critical that a bill such as this be passed in order to protect the riding public as well as those who come into contact with the vertical transportation systems each day, mechanic or otherwise.

In many areas around the world, including the United States, vertical transportation systems are not installed or maintained properly. Current code standards, developed by elevator professionals, are often ignored by building owners, developers, or management companies, because they do not realize the complexity of the systems over the past 120 years. An elevator is and elevator, right? Wrong.

Many companies offer continuing education for their field employees, but several do not. This leaves a huge gap in skill sets amongst companies and individual mechanics which can result in dangerous situations for passengers and personnel.

A competent elevator mechanic goes through up to 5 years of an apprentice program to become an elevator professional. This includes class work and practical, hands-on, application of the standard work processes developed to install, modernize, maintain, and repair various types of equipment. The result is an increase in the safety, reliability, and longevity of elevator systems.

Upon completion of their education, our industry produces elevator professionals that not only know elevator systems, but are also competent in other trades such as:



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- Carpentry for elevator cab interiors
- Electrical for the wiring of the system and integration with other building systems
- Millwright skills for the various metal fabrication and repair required
- Plumber/Pipefitter skills for the various hydraulic elevators
- Mechanical skills for the numerous different types of machines, brakes and safety systems

A competent professional must know how to safely troubleshoot and repair a relay-based elevator installed in the 1910's as well as a microprocessor-based system installed last week. They need to know how to safely install and maintain low rise hydraulic elevators as well as high speed, high rise elevators and everything in between.

A bill that requires proper education to obtain a license to work on vertical transportation equipment as well as continuing education to maintain that license is critical to improve the safety of the equipment for passengers. It is also critical to provide the safe work practices to protect those who work on the equipment every day regardless of equipment's age, manufacturer, model or type.

In my professional opinion, there is no downside to HB107. It receives my full support.