

Testimony in Support of HB 107
before the
Ohio Senate General Government Budget Committee
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The Murphy Elevator Company
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Good morning Chairman Peterson, Vice Chair Cirino, Ranking Member Craig and Members of the Ohio Senate General Government Budget Committee; thank you for this opportunity to testify as a proponent of House Bill 107 – the Ohio Elevator Safety Bill.

My name is Rich Hendrickson and I have been in the Elevator Industry since leaving Active Duty in the Navy in 1998. I am currently the Construction and Modernization Superintendent for The Murphy Elevator Company as well as the Branch Manager for our Cincinnati Office. I run Construction and Modernization in 5 states as well as the Service side of the house in Cincinnati. Murphy Elevator has 45 field employees and 20 office staff. I am also the Chairperson of the Joint Apprenticeship Committee for the IUEC Local 20 in Louisville.

Elevators and Escalators are a big part of most of our lives. They are one of the most commonly used mode of transportation, and yet most people do not give using them a second thought. In my current job, upgrading older elevators and making them new again is a huge part of what I do. I can't make this happen without my guys in the field that I trust 100% to do things safely. What brings me peace of mind is knowing that the mechanics I have that work for me have been properly trained and have had safety embedded into them.

As I just mentioned, we install and service elevators in five states. Besides Ohio, we are in Kentucky, Indiana, West Virginia and Illinois—all of them have a law on the books like HB 107. The elevator safety laws in the other four states make our industry, my employees and the general public safer without increasing the cost to our customers. Any of our competitors would say the same, in fact I am have included a letter of support for the bill from the National Elevator Industry, Inc.

(NEII) which is a national trade association representing elevator contractors like the Murphy Elevator Company. HB 107 increases safety without increasing costs.

I also supervise large modernization projects. In the last few years, both the Huntington Center and the Riffe Center had their elevators modernized.

Modernization requires the mechanics to safely remove the entire elevator structure and replace them with newer equipment. These projects include an enormous amount of engineering, and my company invests in people who are trained to do every part of the job.

One of the titles I hold that I'm most proud of is Qualified Elevator Inspector (QEI).

QEI is the highest standard an elevator constructor can hold, and it allows me to be an elevator inspector. Ohio requires every inspector to be a QEI, which helps ensure that we have one of the best inspection regimes in the country, but elevators can malfunction between inspections. Licensing elevator mechanics will

ensure that repairs done in between inspections are meeting the same high standard as the inspections.

Licensing is also a way of ensuring that we, as an industry, put the best people in place to do all aspects of the job. Whether it be New Construction, Modernization, Service or Repair. I want my customers to know that my team is top notch and have had the proper training to do the task at hand.

If I learned one thing in my 26 years in the Navy and Navy Reserves: being properly trained prepares you for whatever task lies ahead. This bill is about putting good mechanics out there to ensure our conveyance riding public is safe.