

May 12, 2021

## Senate Bill 142

Good morning Chairman Rulli and members of the committee. I am Linda Hudek, owner and operator of LH Plumbing Services in Fairfield, Ohio. I am a state licensed plumbing contractor with over 14 years experience in the field. I have worked in both the residential and commercial sectors, in new construction, remodeling and service.

I have seen firsthand the destruction that follows when unlicensed contractors attempt to perform work that they have not been educated or trained to perform. Imploded water heaters that have flooded homes and caused massive structural damage due to improper installation. I have also had to replace leaking natural gas lines that were installed with non code approved materials and not properly tested resulting in property damage. Fuel burning appliances (such as water heaters and furnaces) are routinely installed by handymen or family friends with no experience, no license, and no permit. These appliances, when improperly vented, are absolutely deadly. So many of these appliances are installed with undersized venting, venting that isn't properly connected, or the wrong material that easily melts or otherwise fails- all resulting in deadly carbon monoxide leaks. Because homeowners or landlords are often ignorant of the science and physics of plumbing, and completely unfamiliar with plumbing code- they are often the victim of poor and dangerous plumbing installations.

Senate Bill 142 would help to drastically reduce the frequency of these dangers. Requiring all companies or individuals who offer HVAC and plumbing services to be licensed will help prevent millions of dollars in property damage and more importantly, help to prevent unnecessary injury and death in our state.

Plumbers protect the health of the nation. We protect the health of Ohio. We should consider the health of the individual citizen and the family just as important as that of the commercial and public entity. Commercial HVAC and plumbing are regulated by the state. Residential plumbing and heating should be as well.

Thank you for your attention and consideration in this extremely important matter and I would be happy to attempt to answer any questions you might have.

Sincerely,

Linda M Hudek

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