

**APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2009**

**RE: LABOR DEPARTMENT BUDGET – APPRENTICESHIP
TRAINING**

My name is Cameron Champlin and I represent United Association Plumbers and Pipe Fitters Local 777. Local 777 is opposed to the transfer of apprenticeship training to the proposed Middle College System.

I served a five year apprenticeship under the existing system before acquiring my journeyman's license. Because of the opportunity afforded to me through that program I was able to obtain a good job paying good wages, health insurance and pension plan. In turn this made me a productive member of society, being able to raise a family, buy a home, pay my taxes and provide a good education for my children. We believe it is this type of program that will have a positive effect on the economic recovery of the State of Connecticut. Although these difficult economic times indicate downsizing of certain programs in the state the apprenticeship division should not be one of them.

There is a bill that is requesting doubling of the apprentice registration fee and transferring the apprenticeship programs to the proposed Middle College System. Also the fee would be deposited into the General Fund. When the registration fee was instituted it was directed to a non lapsing account within the Labor Department and dedicated to the Apprenticeship Division. To terminate this procedure would be counter productive for the quality of our Apprenticeship Programs. Remember one of Connecticut's greatest assets is its well trained productive workforce.

Thank you for considering my testimony. If there are any questions please contact me by Cell (860)287-0020, Fax/Phone (860) 443-9485 or email- camc@att.net